

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

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Judy Horton; Pat Yott; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Shirley Sanderson; 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, Wagner seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated July 6, 2004 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Wagner moved, Lantis seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Item No. 4) Discuss Special Council Meeting of August 9, 2004 at 7 p.m., Item No. 5) Discussion of SATA and Item No. 6) Discussion of M.A.G.N.E.T.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton asked if anyone came down Dutcher Street during the rain event and advised the water was almost halfway across the road in her area. Mayor Corey asked if the water was still there. Ms. Horton advised yes.

CONSIDER LAND MAINTENANCE/USE LEASE WITH HEATHER FOSTER: Mayor Corey advised it was his understanding that Ms. Foster has agreed to maintain the property in exchange for using the property as long as there is no construction or excavation without coming to the city council first. Councilperson Lantis stated she was worried about their children getting hurt on the swing set and asked if something should be put in the lease. Mayor Corey stated the liability could be addressed in the motion. Mr. Sawyer advised the Fosters could put a rider on their homeowner's policy to cover this property. Mayor Corey stated a statement to hold the city harmless should also be included in the motion. Mr.

Sawyer advised council could make a motion asking him to draft a lease and bring it back to the next meeting. Lantis moved, Wagner seconded to authorize the city manager to draft a maintenance/use lease with Heather Foster for the vacant lot at 523 North Shiawassee Street.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR AUGUST 2, 2004 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE VEGETATION ORDINANCE:

Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to set a public hearing for August 2, 2004 at 7:15 p.m. to consider modifications to the Vegetation Ordinance.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

7:15 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE FOREST

MANAGEMENT COMMISSION ORDINANCE: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to leave the regular session and open the public hearing to consider changes to the Forest Management Commission Ordinance No. 04-03.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Corey advised he felt Sec. 82-64 (c) currently reads “The commission, when requested by the city council, shall consider, investigate, make a finding, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work”, but he felt Sec. 82-64 (c) should read “The commission, when requested by the city council or administration, shall consider, investigate, make a finding, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.” Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to close the public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 04-03, Amendments to Chapter 82 – Vegetation, Article II. Trees, Division 2, Forest Management Commission, Sec. 82-62. Terms of Office; Annual Meeting, Sec. 82-64. Duties and Responsibilities and Sec. 82-65. Organization, Operation. and return to the regular session.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:20 p.m.

Lantis moved, Wagner seconded to adopt the following ordinance including the changes of eliminating (b) under Sec. 82-65 Organization, Operation and inserting the words “or administration” after the words city council in Sec. 82-64 (c):

**ORDINANCE NO. 04-03**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CORUNNA, MICHIGAN, CHAPTER 82 – VEGETATION, ARTICLE II. TREES, DIVISION 2, FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, SEC. 82-62. TERMS OF OFFICE; ANNUAL MEETING, SEC. 82-64. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND SEC. 82-65. ORGANIZATION, OPERATION.**

**THE CITY OF CORUNNA, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 82-62. TERMS OF OFFICE; ANNUAL MEETING, shall be as follows:**

**Sec. 82-62. Terms of office; annual meeting.**

- (a) The term of office of the five appointed members of the commission shall be three years; except that the term of the councilmember shall coincide with the term of the office of councilmember.
- (b) **The Forestry Commission shall meet on a monthly basis with an annual meeting being** ~~An annual meeting shall be held in January of each year.~~

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 82-64. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, shall be as follows:**

**Sec. 82-64. Duties and responsibilities.**

- (a) It shall be the responsibility of the commission to study, investigate, counsel and develop and/or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the city council along with the department's proposed budget and upon its acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive city tree plan for the city.
- (b) The commission may retain a ~~registered state forester as a~~ consultant to assist the commission in the technical matters of forestry management.
- (c) The commission, when requested by the city council or administration, shall consider, investigate, make a finding, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 82-65. ORGANIZATION, OPERATION, shall be as follows:**

**Sec. 82-65. Organization, Operation.**

(a) The commission shall choose its own officers **at its first annual meeting**, make its own rules, regulations, and policies. ~~and keep a journal of its proceedings.~~

**(c) The commission shall keep minutes of each meeting.**

~~(d)~~ (b) A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4. Severability.

This Ordinance and the several sections, sub-sections, paragraphs, clauses and parts thereof are hereby declared to be severable. If any part or clause thereof is declared or adjudged invalid by present or future legislation or decree, the balance of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. Conflicting Ordinances Repealed.

All Ordinances previously adopted and incorporated in the Code of the City of Corunna, Michigan, through codification procedures, or any existing Ordinances that are inconsistent with the provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, and in the case of inconsistencies, to the extent of such inconsistency, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. Copies Available.

This Ordinance may be purchased or inspected in the City Clerk's Offices, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

SECTION 7. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect pursuant to the Corunna City Charter, immediately upon publication hereof.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2004 AT 7 P.M.: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to hold a special council meeting to consider sidewalk bids on August 9, 2004 at 7 p.m.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF SATA: Mayor Corey advised people from SATA were here at least three times and SATA is asking the city for .25 per \$1,000. Councilperson Runyan advised SATA is asking the city for \$17,000. Mayor Corey advised one option is millage, another option is to take money out of the General Fund, and the other option is not to pay anything. Councilperson Runyan stated the last time SATA people were here council asked the same

questions as the year before but those questions were not answered again so it does not seem like there has been any progress made. He further stated council could ask someone from SATA to come one more time to see if they come up with any answers or a motion could be made to inform SATA that the city does not want to be involved and will not put the millage on the ballot. Councilperson Mehigh stated Mr. Audet did not have answers to the questions that were asked and Mr. Audet referred to the Pleasant View residents as being the city's people, but the Pleasant View residents retain their former addresses and are not citizens of Corunna even though the building is located here. Councilperson Mehigh further stated Mr. Audet was very unsure about anything he said. Councilperson Mehigh also stated he had a problem with that because \$17,000 is a lot of money. Council would like to see the Corunna citizens have a way to get to the doctor but he was not so sure that SATA was approaching this right. Councilperson Runyan asked Councilperson Lantis if she had any input about whether she has seen any progress. Councilperson Lantis advised there were three governments that put money in their budget but the amount was about \$1,700. The City of Perry's cost is approximately \$1,700, which is much lower than the City of Corunna's cost. She further advised she has had residents from Owosso call her with concerns about the students from the different schools that ride SATA. These people have seen the SATA bus wait outside of the school for about a half hour but if someone else is five or ten minutes late, the bus leaves and the person is still charged even though the person does not get on the bus. She also advised there are a lot of problems that are not being resolved. Councilperson Mehigh stated he did not think that SATA was a well-run organization and did not know if SATA deserves the city's support. Mr. Sawyer advised this should be a countywide issue but until that day comes he did not think it was reasonable to request this municipality to support a service that should be a countywide service or self-sufficient. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to have the mayor direct a letter to SATA advising them that the city is not interested in putting the millage on the ballot or contributing money from the General Fund. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would like to see some of Mr. Sawyer's information included in the letter. Mayor Corey asked council if it was council's feeling that the millage should be a countywide proposition. Council advised yes.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF M.A.G.N.E.T.: Mayor Corey stated the city received a request from M.A.G.N.E.T. asking for \$1.00 per capita. The city offered rental space and they chose not to take the city up on the offer. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city voted to give them money last year. Mr. Sawyer advised there was a motion at one time that the city would attempt to make funds available in the budget process but budget process funds were not made available so the request died at that point. The city is through the budget process this year and there is nothing budgeted. Councilperson Runyan stated he was looking for some kind of report or information on what M.A.G.N.E.T. has done. Mayor Corey advised he knew M.A.G.N.E.T. would come to a meeting if council wants that report, but asked council if they were willing to donate \$1.00 per capita after getting that report. Councilperson Sanderson asked how many communities M.A.G.N.E.T. supports. Mayor Corey advised Shiawassee and Gratiot County. Councilperson Sanderson asked if each government was being asked for money. Mayor Corey advised so they say.

Councilperson Sanderson stated so the city has no idea what has taken place anywhere else yet. Mayor Corey advised it was his understanding that M.A.G.N.E.T. has received manpower donations from several municipalities to run the organization. Councilperson Mehig stated he felt this was an excellent program and believed there are significant problems that people do not know about. He further stated things are financially tight but he felt the city should help them a little but he would like to hear a presentation before the city gives them any money. Mr. Sawyer advised this is a program that benefits the entire county unlike some of the other services the county government provides that only benefit certain communities within the county. Although this is a great program, the board of commissioners should be providing funding properly to M.A.G.N.E.T., Veteran's Affairs, and other groups that service a countywide need rather than putting all of the money into road patrol. He also advised the city pays for its own police department and asked if it was fair for the city residents to pay for something that should be a countywide service funded by the board of commissioners. Mayor Corey advised there are a lot of meth labs in the townships that are set up in the country and agreed with Mr. Sawyer that funding should be looked at on a countywide basis. Mayor Corey further advised the program is important because the meth labs will show up where there is no enforcement. Councilperson Mehig stated even though the labs are located in a rural area the best customers will come from the city where there is a bigger demand. He further stated he spoke with a police officer in Durand a while back and the officer admitted Durand has a significant drug problem. He also stated he agreed with Mayor Corey and Mr. Sawyer that the proper way to fund the program is through the county but asked if the city should throw up its arms and say let the county do it. Mayor Corey stated M.A.G.N.E.T. is not asking for start up money. This is going to be an ongoing thing. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city offered the group a place for their office. Mr. Sawyer advised there was never a formal proposal but the city offered to help them with some of their physical needs and in-kind type of situations that never panned out. Councilperson Runyan asked where the office was located. Mr. Sawyer advised the group works out of the state police post. Councilperson Mehig asked if there was any way to get Mr. Sawyer's message to the county commissioners that this should be a county program and the city would support the program if it were through the county as opposed to individual communities. Mr. Sawyer stated he does not want to encourage presentations from groups when minds are already made up. He further stated the county supports the program to a degree by having a full-time deputy assigned to the program and everyone in the county is paying for that deputy through county taxes. He was not clear what the county's budget needs are but he knows this is related to operational expenses. Mayor Corey stated it seems that council had this discussion a year and one-half ago and he thought M.A.G.N.E.T. could generate \$55,000 or \$60,000 for operations. Mr. Sawyer stated Owosso is probably being excluded from the per capita because they are providing an officer. Councilperson Johnson asked how it would look if the city was going to fund another agency when the city is in arbitration with its police department. Mayor Corey agreed. Mr. Sawyer advised he personally felt the county should be asking municipalities that do not pay for law enforcement for contributions towards road patrol. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to have the mayor draft a similar letter to M.A.G.N.E.T. stating the city is not able to financially participate and that the city believes the program should be financed based upon a countywide assistance.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report. He explained there is a conference on August 24 that relates to the Headlee Amendment and if council was interested in attending to let city hall know. He further explained the registrations and hotel reservations should be sent in for the MML Conference and encouraged council to get with Yvonne Long so the proper paperwork gets filled out. He asked who would be attending the conference. Councilpersons Runyan, Mehigh, Johnson, Wagner, and Sanderson advised they would be attending the conference. Mr. Sawyer passed out a copy of the City of Owosso's Town Crier that is sent out to its citizens once or twice a year. He advised the city's code is on the Internet but the link to access the information has been changed and passed out information on how to access the new link. Mr. Sawyer updated council on the King Street project. The construction is scheduled to start August 11 and the school system was concerned with the start date because the athletic programs begin on August 9, the first football game is scheduled for August 20 and the first day of school is scheduled for August 30. Mr. Sawyer stated he believed there are members of the community who believe the project will go beyond Kingsley Street, but the construction project will go from Comstock Street to Kingsley Street and nothing further. Judy Horton asked what would be done with the parking on the school side along King Street. Mr. Sawyer advised there would be no parking on either side of King Street from Comstock Street to Kingsley Street once the project is done.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Lantis asked if any help was needed going door to door with the library millage election and if anything was planned. Pat Yott advised she had no idea. Mayor Corey asked if there was a plan to get the message out. Ms. Yott advised there was supposed to be but as far as she knew everything deteriorated. A brochure is being mailed out to all of the voters in the townships that are involved. Mayor Corey stated he would be willing to help by going door to door. Councilperson Lantis advised she thought the Friends of the Library were supposed to come up with something. Mayor Corey asked if the Friends of the Library were going to do that. Ms. Yott advised yes. Mr. Sawyer advised it was his understanding that a decision was made not to do yard signs, which he thought was a mistake. A direct mailing to all of the residents within the Community District Library is wonderful but going door to door is very important. He further advised he spoke with the library employees and the library is trying to get people to write letters to the editor, which are critical as well. Mayor Corey advised seven or eight people could do the entire city in a half day and he did not understand why the library was not doing anything. Ms. Yott advised at the meeting last Wednesday night the Friends of the Library decided not to do phone banks or yard signs. Mayor Corey asked if there was some reason why the Friends of the Library did not want the millage to pass because it seems that way. Ms. Yott advised she had no idea and felt they waited too long to take action. Mayor Corey suggested meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday unless Councilperson Runyan finds out that something has been already organized.

Councilperson Mehigh thanked Councilperson Runyan for getting the Michigan Municipal League President to Corunna.

Councilperson Runyan stated Ms. Horton mentioned flooding on Dutcher Street and advised there is an area near the south boundary of the church property that the water is coming from. Ms. Horton advised the water is coming from the area between the church and the house next door. Councilperson Runyan explained there is a ditch directly west of the area and if the city could get an easement for an open ditch for this area until the street is done, this might alleviate a lot of the water problem. Ms. Horton advised a tile underneath the road is needed. Councilperson Mehigh advised there is a natural ditch there but it is not deep enough and he did not know if this would involve the county or not. Ms. Horton advised the water comes from Caledonia Township.

Councilperson Johnson advised she had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Wagner advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Sanderson advised he had nothing to discuss.

Mayor Corey advised he spoke to Mike Dvorak and the airport manager is under the impression that the agreement with the municipalities is about to terminate, which is not true because he read the agreement and the agreement goes on forever. He asked if the airport board had a contract with the airport manager or if the airport manager is an employee. Mr. Sawyer advised he believed the airport manager was set up as an employee. Mayor Corey asked if this was a good thing. Mr. Sawyer advised not necessarily. Mayor Corey advised he did not think so either and read in the minutes that there was discussion about benefits. Mr. Sawyer advised when an individual is hired the person is an employee unless the person manages several airports. Mayor Corey asked if a person could be contracted to do a service. Mr. Sawyer advised not if that is all the person does. If a person works exclusively for someone then that person is an employee. Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Wagner if Guy Stuart was leaving. Councilperson Wagner advised not that he knew. Mr. Sawyer advised this would not surprise him because Mr. Stuart wanted to leave a year ago.

ADJOURN: Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:05 p.m.

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STEVE COREY, MAYOR

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK