

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 9, 2004

Present: Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Spring.

Absent: Wagner.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; and other concerned citizens.

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

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

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SIDEWALK BIDS FOR 2005 AND 2006 CONSTRUCTION SEASONS: Mayor Corey reviewed the sidewalk bids with the city council. Mr. Sawyer explained the city has 33,000 square feet of poor sidewalks that need to be replaced. He further explained Randy Custom Concrete was the low bidder and this is a city-based business. It was his recommendation to award the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 sidewalk program to Randy Custom Concrete who also offered a five-year guarantee. He also explained the city has to identify the sidewalks that will be done. Mr. Sawyer stated the city staff and council might take some grief from people because nobody likes assessments. The property owner will have to pay for the sidewalk work and will be assessed 50 percent of the cost, which used to be 75 percent. He further stated he would like to see a sub-committee formed with one councilperson from each ward including himself and Mr. Crawford to walk the sidewalks to find out which sidewalks should be done this year. Councilperson Mehigh asked if the city would allow the people to spread out the cost over a certain amount of years. Mr. Sawyer advised yes, the city ordinance allows a five-year payback that used to be three years. Councilperson Mehigh asked if interest would be charged. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Merilee Lawson read the city ordinance and explained the interest rate cannot exceed seven percent per annum. Mr. Sawyer advised council does not have to charge seven percent if it does not want to. If the city is only making three percent interest on its city improvement investments, the council can choose to charge less than seven percent. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought three percent interest was fair. Ms. Lawson stated the streetscape property owners are paying six percent. Mr. Sawyer advised interest rates are abnormally low right now and there are some good arguments to go with a lower interest rate. Mayor Corey stated if interest rates go up next year, some people might end up paying more than someone one street over. Mr. Sawyer advised council could charge one percent above the prime rate not to exceed seven percent. Councilperson Mehigh asked if a detailed letter would be sent out to each homeowner. Mr. Sawyer advised yes, the residents have to be given the opportunity to replace their own sidewalk if they wish to, but they will have to pay 100 percent of the cost. The resident would have to pick up a

permit and build the sidewalk to the city's specifications. Mayor Corey stated the city does not know who to send a letter to until the committee determines what sidewalks to do. Mr. Sawyer advised no new sidewalk construction would be done in the two-year program with the exception of the Heritage Park project that was bid separately. He further advised there are some sidewalks that are not on the list that should be done. Councilperson Runyan asked if it would be too much of an administrative burden if council decides to charge one percent over the prime rate and the interest rate fluctuates. Mr. Sawyer advised no. Councilperson Runyan advised he felt this would be fair to everyone. Councilperson Sanderson asked what the reaction would be if the Heritage Park is done first. Ms. Sawyer advised the Heritage Park is a separately funded project. Councilperson Sanderson asked if it would be okay for someone on one of the blocks to contact Randy about doing his or her sidewalk. Mr. Sawyer advised yes but the person would still have to get a permit. The county is also interested in replacing the sidewalk on the south side of the Surbeck Building with the county paying 100 percent of the expense. Councilperson Spring asked when the sidewalks have to be prioritized by. Mr. Sawyer advised by the next meeting if possible because there is a notice requirement that requires the property owner to let the city know 15 days from the mailing of the original notice if they intend to replace the sidewalk themselves and he would like to see the project done during this construction season. Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to accept the Randy Custom Concrete bid to replace the city sidewalks for the 2004/2005 budgetary years as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Spring, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Johnson moved, Mehig seconded to appoint Councilpersons Sanderson, Runyan and Spring to a committee to work with the city manager and superintendent of public works to scope out the city sidewalks.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Spring, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

A decision was made for the committee to meet on Thursday, August 12 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Johnson moved, Runyan seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Mehig, Runyan, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:31 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

LINDA M. LECUREUX, DEPUTY CLERK