

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 16, 2004

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Bill Striggow; Bob Buschman; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Shirley Sanderson; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Larry Alpert; Pat Yott; Helen Granger, The Independent; Jack and Tina Johnson; Cheryl Warren, The Argus Press; Keith Bailey; Cameron Canute; Glenda Compton; Carrie Blanchett; Mary Arvoy; James and Andrew Hugulet; Jill Young; Cathy Stevenson; Haylee Fett; Sue Alpert; Marlene Fick; Pat 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, Runyan seconded to accept the previous regular meeting minutes dated August 2, 2004 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SPECIAL MEETING: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to accept the previous special meeting minutes dated August 9, 2004 as presented. Mayor Corey advised the title of the minutes state "Regular Council Meeting" and should be amended to state "Special Council Meeting".

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Runyan moved, Johnson seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Item No. 8) Consider Removal of Amy Lantis from the S.A.T.A. Board, Item No. 8A) Consider Appointment of a Councilperson to the S.A.T.A. Board, Item No. 9) Consider Removal of Amy Lantis from the Forest Management Commission, and Item No. 9A) Consider Appointment of a Councilperson to the Forest Management Commission.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Joe Borgstrom gave council an update on the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership. He advised council the partnership has attracted its first attraction prospect from outside of the county. Dux Boats is relocating their facility from Lakeview to Shiawassee County and has set up a temporary shop in the Strawsine Industrial Complex. He further advised the company intends to bring 30 new jobs into the community in the short-term and up to 200 jobs in the future. He also advised the need for infrastructure and available industrial land is something the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership will be looking to address right away. There are 298 acres of industrial land currently open for sale in the county and the largest track of that land is 98 acres and according to a study that was done, the county needs 1,000 acres to be competitive. Mr. Borgstrom stated the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership is working with the City of Corunna, City of Durand and the Perry area on how to address this problem.

Cameron Canute introduced himself as the chairperson of the S.A.T.A. board. He advised the City of Owosso and Caledonia Township passed the S.A.T.A. millage and asked council to rethink funding S.A.T.A. as far as what is done in Corunna. He further advised he knew there have been some previous discussion with Larry Alpert about funding and he hopes S.A.T.A. can continue providing service to the City of Corunna and Pleasant View. He also advised he knew there was an issue about getting more information about the rider ship breakdown to Pleasant View and the City of Corunna. Mr. Canute asked council again to rethink the funding issue and urged council to contact S.A.T.A. if they can be of more assistance and if more information was needed.

Mary Arvoy stated she lives in Corunna and she was at the meeting to ask council to reconsider the S.A.T.A. millage and put it up for a vote on the November ballot because she did not see why the city council would not do that.

An audience member stated she wanted everybody to know how much time S.A.T.A. saves everyone because every time she has an appointment she calls S.A.T.A. and they pick her up and bring her home. If she has to call somebody else to take her, it could take that person at least one to three hours to pick her up and bring her back. She further stated if she has two or three appointments a week, this could add up to quite a bit of time that mothers and dads have to take off work to take her to the doctor. The audience member advised she uses S.A.T.A. all the time.

Tina Johnson stated she wanted to speak on behalf of her daughter Haylee and advised this has been her family's first opportunity to use S.A.T.A. on a regular basis. Her daughter has been taking summer classes three days a week at the Job's First Program located on the west side of Owosso and takes S.A.T.A. every time she has a class. Ms. Johnson further stated if S.A.T.A. were not available, her family would have a heck of a time getting her

daughter back and forth to the summer classes that she desperately needs. This is also giving Haylee the opportunity to get use to using S.A.T.A. and hopes that this will help Haylee gain some independence from mom and dad having to take her everywhere because she is not able to drive. Ms. Johnson also stated her daughter has enjoyed the experience she has had and once she is back at her regular school, she is hoping to set up a schedule that lets her take S.A.T.A. just to keep her moving within the community. Ms. Johnson advised she thinks it is important for the disabled and elderly people to keep moving within the community.

Pat Sanderson stated she has a neighbor lady in her 80's who owns a Cadillac that she drives very seldom but this lady takes S.A.T.A. two or three times a week. Ms. Sanderson further stated she did not know where her neighbor would be if she did not have S.A.T.A. because she might end up calling on her to take her places. She also stated she hopes the council would reconsider S.A.T.A.

John Elkins stated he has lived in the city all of his life and S.A.T.A. is one of the great things the city has. There used to be really good transportation in the city and now it is needed again. He further stated the senior citizens need to get out instead of sitting inside their house all of the time. Senior citizens need to get groceries so he thinks S.A.T.A. is wonderful.

Glenda Compton stated she takes a S.A.T.A. bus everyday because she does not drive and S.A.T.A. is needed.

Bill Striggow agreed that S.A.T.A. was a great thing but felt it was not being managed properly because there are busses being driven around empty. It would be nice if Corunna could help but he did not have any answers for council.

Cathy Stevenson advised council she is the community resource liaison for Memorial Healthcare and is also on the S.A.T.A. board. She has seen a number of patients use S.A.T.A. to come to doctor's appointments at the hospital and knows the Shiawassee R.E.S.D. use S.A.T.A. to transport their workers and investment students during the summer and these people would not be working if it were not for S.A.T.A. She further advised she would like to urge the council to put the millage on the ballot in November because it was shown at the Caledonia Township and the City of Owosso election that the residents of these areas overwhelmingly support S.A.T.A. and its services.

Marlene Fick stated she has an apartment building in the city and one of her renters is without transportation and uses S.A.T.A. to get to doctor appointments and other places she needs to go. She further stated she felt S.A.T.A. serves a vital service because there is no taxi service or regular bus service. She also stated Corunna has one of the oldest populations in Shiawassee County and it might get to the point where everyone will have to have transportation other than a personal vehicle. Ms. Fick advised she felt it was worth putting the millage on the ballot so the people can vote on it.

Larry Alpert stated he is convinced that the council feels that S.A.T.A. is important and knows that it is a financial issue. He realizes that Corunna has some special issues because it is the county seat so that makes it more difficult to make financial decisions. He further

stated it is important to note that S.A.T.A. transportation and any public transportation in the state cannot exist without federal, state and local support and S.A.T.A. has been able to operate up to this point without local government financial support. He also stated it has been suggested that S.A.T.A. should be a countywide issue and he has no objections to this because he would like to see this be a countywide issue. Mayor Corey has indicated that it might be possible for the council and other councils within the county to support such a move. Mr. Alpert advised he hopes the council will reconsider its original decision. He knows there was some confusion probably on S.A.T.A.'s part in providing information and hopefully all of the information has been provided to see if there could be a win/win situation for all concerned.

James Hugellet introduced himself and advised he serves on the council for the City of Perry and is a member of the S.A.T.A. board representing the City of Perry. He explained he was at the meeting to show support and solidarity with the riders and seniors that find S.A.T.A. invaluable. He further explained his colleagues on the board hope that the city council will place the millage on the ballot.

Mayor Corey stated everyone at the meeting tonight has reinforced the council's thought that there is a need for S.A.T.A. but the council has a responsibility to the people of Corunna. He further stated there was a recent article in the Independent that left the impression that the city council was not supporting S.A.T.A., which was not the case because the city council supports S.A.T.A. The article led people to believe that the city council did not want to put the question on the ballot for people to vote on, but the real issue is that the council has a responsibility to the citizens to make sure that the citizens know what they are voting on. He also stated the city council has asked S.A.T.A. for answers to a list of questions for a year and a half and has been trying to get information from them and it is interesting that the city council is now getting those answers. Mayor Corey advised the city council cannot make a decision and if it does not get the information it has requested to make sure the millage is an appropriate means of funding for this organization, the city council will not put the millage question on the ballot. He further advised it apparently took not putting the millage on the ballot to get the information from S.A.T.A. and he expects the council will be meeting in the near future to discuss funding options. He also advised he addressed a letter to S.A.T.A. about two or three weeks ago telling them that the city was not going to financially participate because the city felt this should be done at a county level or through an authority. When he spoke to Mr. Alpert today and last week, he told him if S.A.T.A. was an authority then they have the ability to go to a municipality and have the millage put on the ballot instead of running to this council or that board trying to convince everyone that the millage should be put on the ballot. Mayor Corey explained the city council did not have an issue with S.A.T.A. or the service they provide, but in order for the city to make an intelligent choice to put the millage on the ballot, the city needed information it did not get.

APPOINT OFFICER DELEGATE AND OFFICER ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO
M.E.R.S. ANNUAL MEETING: Mehig moved, Johnson seconded to appoint Joe Sawyer as Officer Delegate and Yvonne Long as Officer Alternate representatives for the M.E.R.S. annual meeting.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BOURNE INDUSTRIES: Mr. Sawyer explained Bourne Industries is expanding its business and is looking at expanding its facility, but the company is currently struggling for space. He has provided them with about 4,000 feet of space in the Strawsine building on a temporary basis and this space is almost half full with product. He further explained there is an out building behind the Strawsine building that Bourne Industries would work with the city to rehab and he estimates that it will cost \$46,000 to rehab the building. Bourne Industries has agreed to pay half of the cost upfront if the city will match the amount. He also explained Bourne Industries would be given use of the building for two years as they plan their business expansion and three one-year options. If they exercise their options to rent the facility, the city would recoup its investment. Mr. Sawyer advised there is enough money in the industrial fund to do this project but this may not allow the city to do anything else this year. Councilperson Runyan asked if the building has its own electric meter. Mr. Sawyer advised the electric use to come overhead from the primary power at the main complex so the electric will have to be reestablished and he hopes that Consumers Energy can set a meter panel on that building. Electricity is needed in the building to run the furnace blowers and the gas line might have to be redone. Councilperson Spring asked when Bourne Industries would be able to move their product from the Strawsine building into the other building. Mr. Sawyer advised the initial desire was to move into the building right now but the building will have to be stripped. Councilperson Spring asked if there was a timeframe when the work has to be done. Mr. Sawyer advised he has dated the lease to begin January 1, 2005 and has limited the use of the Strawsine building to 60 days. Councilperson Sanderson asked if bids would be sent out for the work. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the lease agreement with Bourne Industries as presented and authorize the city manager to execute the required improvements in an amount not to exceed \$23,000 to be paid for from the Industrial Development Fund, Strawsine Complex, Contractual Services Line Item No. 422-736-818.000.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF FIVE CROWN PCC-170 SURFACE MOUNT MICROPHONES

FOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS: Mayor Corey explained the city no longer has a sound system. The microphones were borrowed from Mr. Sawyer and they have completely failed. Mr. Sawyer advised the city has been using microphones that were left in a building he purchased in Owosso, which the city has been using for the past three years and they have died and the cords are bad. New microphones for council chambers were budgeted the last two years, and since the current microphones are gone, it is time to get the microphones in place to work with the system that was purchased three years ago. He further advised the surface microphones work very well so there is no need for a microphone for each councilperson. The total cost would be under \$1,500. Runyan moved, Wagner seconded to approve the purchase of five (5) Crown PCC-170 surface

mounted microphones and accessories or its equivalent in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 to be paid for from City Council Capital Acquisitions Line Item No. 101-101-977.000.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES: Mr. Sawyer

advised Joe Borgstrom did a wonderful job putting the guidelines together and recommends no changes to it. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement Guidelines as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SETTING LEASE RATE FOR STRAWSINE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX LOW-

CEILING AREAS: Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to approve the Strawsine Industrial Complex rental terms as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AFSCME CONTRACT: Mr. Sawyer advised the Labor Committee

and the union worked well together and had three meetings before coming to a tentative agreement and informed council the union has already ratified the agreement. He reviewed the changes to the contract and commended the Labor Committee for all of their work.

Johnson moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the terms of the tentative agreement with the AFSCME unit as recommended by the Labor Committee.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER 2004 SIDEWALK PROGRAM: Mr. Sawyer advised the committee walked the

streets and narrowed down the worst of the worst sidewalks. He further advised council

asked him to check to see if a variable interest rate could be done but the city's computer

program will not allow the city to do that. If the interest rate is changed, the rate is

changed back to the beginning of the loan and this will mess up the city's bookkeeping.

He also advised it is the city staff's recommendation that council set an interest rate one

percent above prime and since the prime interest rate is currently 4.25 percent, 5.25 percent

would be a pretty decent interest rate. Mayor Corey asked if the interest rate would change

next year for the next group of sidewalk assessments. Mr. Sawyer advised the city should

set an interest rate one percent above the prime interest rate at that time. Johnson moved,

Mehigh seconded to approve the 2004 sidewalk project with addresses as presented and set

the interest rate for installment payments at 5.25%.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REMOVAL OF AMY LANTIS FROM S.A.T.A. BOARD AS COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVE: Wagner moved, Sanderson seconded to remove former Councilperson Amy Lantis from the S.A.T.A. board with regret effective immediately.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF A COUNCILPERSON TO S.A.T.A.: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to appoint Councilperson Spring to the S.A.T.A. board effective immediately.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REMOVAL OF AMY LANTIS FROM FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to remove former Councilperson Amy Lantis from the Forest Management Commission with regret effective immediately.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF A COUNCILPERSON TO THE FOREST MANAGEMENT

COMMISSION: Wagner moved, Runyan seconded to appoint Councilperson Spring to the Forest Management Commission effective immediately.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh stated the people the Labor Committee negotiated with were a pleasure to work with. The union representative was an intelligent young man and he wished all people were that pleasant.

Councilperson Spring stated he wanted to discuss the dumping of brush and the hours the facility was actually open. The hours are currently set from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. but most people work from 8:00 to 5:00 and only have access to the facility one weekend per month. He further stated he did not know if this item had already been hashed over or if the times were set in stone and asked if it was possible to consider having the facility open at different times. He understands there was a cost for the last cleanup the city had, but even with the limited hours the facility is open, the same refuse gets dumped back there.

Mayor Corey stated council has gone over this issue numerous times but does not have the answer. The hours are very difficult for the people who work to get there during those hours. Councilperson Spring advised he currently mows several lawns and the back of his truck is full of grass and he has to hold the grass in the back of his truck until the first of September because he works from 8:00 to 5:00. The earliest he can get out of work is 2:30 and he gets into town by 3:00 but the facility closes at 3:00. Councilperson Spring asked if there was the possibility of looking into the situation. Mayor Corey stated he did not know if there was previous discussion about checking out keys with a deposit. Mr. Sawyer advised the city does not man the yard and people are aware of that. The facility is open during regular D.P.W. business hours and it does help to have some supervision around but the facility is clearly open for abuse during that time. He further advised Mayor Corey brought up a good point about allowing residents to check out a key, which might accomplish both goals by giving people a way to get into the brush yard in the evening or on weekends plus this will keep the people who live outside of the city from dumping. Mayor Corey stated the key would have to be back within 24 hours otherwise there would be keys all over the place. There is a potential that someone could duplicate the key but "do not duplicate" could be put on the key. Mr. Sawyer advised he believes the City of St. Charles has a sign stating if a person is a city resident and the person wants to dump, they have to call the police department to be let in. Mayor Corey stated that might be an idea. Mr. Sawyer advised it might take awhile because the police department is not always available. Councilperson Spring stated the police department could show up and have someone sign a piece of paper with the hours the person would be using the key. Mayor Corey stated a fee would have to be involved because the city might not get the key back. Councilperson Runyan stated this is something the city needs to think about because he has seen people drive down there everyday with a full load and they come back with the same load. Councilperson Mehig suggested giving a key to a councilperson that lives in that area or to every councilperson and the councilperson could let people in. Mayor Corey stated there might be some other alternatives to look at and suggested discussing this item at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councilperson Runyan stated it was a pleasure working with the department of public works during the negotiations and the atmosphere was always positive. There was give and take on both sides and there was not a lot of stress and everything seemed to work smoothly. He further stated the city received a letter from Jim Corrin who had a sewer problem at his barbershop and the department of public works people worked tremendously in the rain to solve this problem. The sewer line was not on the city's map and department of public works jumped through hoops to solve the problem for Mr. Corrin. Councilperson Runyan read the thank-you letter from Mr. Corrin.

Councilperson Johnson advised the fire department and auxiliary are having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, August 21 from 8:00 to noon at the community center. She invited everyone to come down to have breakfast. Judy Horton stated she talked to Scott Johnson and told him if he wanted to use the big pancake breakfast sign to let her know but she has not heard from him. Councilperson Johnson asked Ms. Horton to bring the sign down to the community center because the fire truck from last year's Fourth of July parade float would be down there.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he spoke to Mr. Corrin on Friday and was told a letter would be written. Councilperson Sanderson further stated he spoke to Rich Simpson and Frank Rodriguez and told them that council and the people of Corunna appreciate the relationship they are putting back into the city because there has been a bad attitude about the department of public works for years. Councilperson Sanderson also stated Mr. Simpson and Mr. Rodriguez told him that it made them feel good to think that the council came down there to talk and to personally congratulate them. Mr. Crawford should be proud of his men because they have really come a long way. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the city could get that damn speed sign up on South Shiawassee Street.

Mr. Sawyer stated the community room at the Olmsted Public Library Complex is being worked on. The drop ceiling grid is done, the drywall is being finished, and Sue Huff is getting carpet bids on his behalf. He further stated he hopes the community room will be open for public use in the next three or four weeks. He also stated he did not think a lot of people know how young of a department of public works crew the city has. There are a lot of learning curves going on and the employees try to do their best. Mr. Sawyer advised the most senior employee out of the five employees has four years with the city so the crew is young, they are working hard and he is very pleased with the crew the city has.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:29 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK