

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, September 7, 2004

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Helen Granger, The Independent; Officer Paul Richardson, Police Department; Shirley Sanderson; Bob Buschman; Pat Yott; Marta Lois; 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 accept the previous regular meeting minutes dated August 16, 2004 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented with no additions.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE DDA BOUNDARY AND

TIF PLAN: Merilee Lawson reviewed the amendments to the DDA boundary and TIF plan that have been requested by the Downtown Development Authority. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to set a public hearing for October 4, 2004 at 7:15 p.m. to consider Resolution Amending DDA Boundaries #100404-01.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER LEASE EXTENSION WITH DAVIS CARTAGE: Wagner moved, Johnson

seconded to approve the Lease Amendment with Davis Cartage extending their lease until April 8, 2005.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER BILL OF SALE WITH THE COMMUNITY DISTRICT LIBRARY: Mr. Sawyer

explained the District Library Agreement the city entered into transfers all of the city library's assets to the district library. It has been recommended by community district library's attorney that a Bill of Sale be approved in conjunction with what is already in the district library agreement that was previously approved. He further explained the Bill of Sale was sent to Mr. Burlingame who saw no problem with the format of any of the documents. Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the Bill of Sale to the Community District Library and authorize the transfer of remaining assets of the Corunna Public Library as determined by the city auditors accounting for remaining utilities and library improvements adjustments.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SATA FUNDING REQUEST: Mayor Corey stated he asked for this item to be put

back on the agenda because there have been additional discussion and information and he felt the city needed to make some kind of determination one way or another. The council met with SATA a week ago Monday that was very informative and he made some summary notes from that meeting. He further stated the city has missed the August 24 deadline to put the millage on the ballot, which was not due to the city's delay because the city has been very diligent in trying to find out some information. Since that date has passed, the city's option would be to fund SATA with monies from the General Fund. He also stated after reading the SATA contract, it is his opinion that Corunna could not be removed from the SATA board. It also appears that the city has outlived the agreement and council has discussed that there is a need for SATA but the issue from the beginning has been the financial structure and he did not know if there is any movement to find new means of funding, but he would hope that the city's SATA board members would lead the discussion in looking at new ways of funding SATA. Mayor Corey advised when the council started asking questions a year ago and did not get any answers, SATA asked for millage and Owosso agreed to put the millage on their ballot in August and they were asked by SATA to withdraw it. At that time, SATA and the board knew that the funding mechanism needed to be changed in some fashion. He further advised at the meeting last week, he asked if the RESD was contributing anything and Mr. Trap stated it was illegal for them to contribute financially, but he called the Department of Education and Bureau of School Law and Finance and they indicated that they saw nothing illegal about the RESD contributing out of their general millage fund. Councilperson Runyan stated the city council has several issues that have not been explained and the City of Corunna cannot afford to take that much money out of the General Fund. One of the issues was with Pleasant View and the school rider ship, which is almost 50 percent of the total riders and

that is a big concern to him. He further stated he understands that some of the children have no way to get to school but this service was started for the elderly and the handicapped and he felt the city should not go forward at this time. Mayor Corey stated he talked with Ann Hart, who is the director of the medical care facility, and they are adamant about not losing SATA because it is necessary for their facility so they would be willing to pay 50 percent of what the rider ship costs would be to Corunna, which is just under \$17,000. Councilperson Mehig stated there is no one sitting here that does not want SATA because it is very important to the people and seniors, but there have been a lot of questions about how SATA operates and its funding and he felt the city's representatives need to set up some kind of organizational meeting to get everything out in the open in order to come up with an equitable way of funding all of this. Caledonia Charter Township approved the millage but SATA will not cover the whole township. He further stated there are a lot of questions that are unanswered and he felt other ways of funding need to be looked at before the city would be willing to participate. Councilperson Sanderson stated it is extremely important to get out to the public that even if the city does not contribute to SATA that the people will not lose their service. He further stated the city should go forward with getting answers to its questions. He asked if Pleasant View gives money and the city does not give money, would this turn into a 50/50 gamble. Mayor Corey advised no, Pleasant View made a generous offer and they may independently contract with SATA. He further advised when SATA first organized, there were no indications that SATA would force any governmental unit to contribute. If fare adjustments have to be made, they would have to be made unilaterally across the board and did not believe they could increase Corunna's rate just because the city did not contribute, but he did not know what cuts would be made. He further stated SATA is seeking millage from Perry Township and Owosso Charter Township in addition to Caledonia Charter Township but SATA has indicated that service to those entire townships will not be provided even though millage will be collected from the entire township. Councilperson Sanderson stated he felt the most important issue is to let the people know that they will not lose their service. Mayor Corey advised he did not believe it was the city's responsibility to solve SATA's problems and has offered to sit down with SATA to discuss other financing options. Mr. Sawyer stated the city has a practical difficulty with taking money from the General Fund if council wanted to do that because based on the preliminary audit work, the city will be off about \$100,000. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Sawyer not to go there. Mr. Sawyer asked council to ask him why. Mayor Corey advised no. Mr. Sawyer stated he would tell council he did not know. He further stated he was disappointed that it was reported that all of the questions were answered when one specific answer was "I can't answer that" which is not an answer. Mayor Corey explained the city council asked SATA where the short fall of \$77,000 was and the answer was they did not know. The only option for council at this point is to look at the General Fund and everyone is well aware that the city has tough times ahead. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to draft a letter to SATA indicating that the city is not able during this fiscal year to assist in financing. Councilperson Runyan asked if something should be included in the letter that the door is always open for them to come back for more discussion. Mayor Corey advised he would include that in the letter.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #210, NO STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING ON THE NORTH & SOUTH SIDES OF EAST KING STREET FROM COMSTOCK TO KINGSLEY:

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve Traffic Control Order #210, No Stopping, Standing, Parking on the North & South sides of East King Street from Comstock to Kingsley.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF ROBERT GILMAN FROM THE CORUNNA PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to accept the resignation of Robert Gilman from the Corunna Planning Commission effective immediately with regret.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ESTABLISHING RENTAL RATES FOR THE OLMSTED ROOM IN THE OLMSTED PUBLIC LIBRARY COMPLEX:

Johnson moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the rental contract for the Olmsted Room in the Olmsted Public Library Complex at the rate of \$100.00 per minimum of four (4) hours and additional time will be charged at the rate of \$25.00 per hour and a \$25.00 key deposit is required and to be refunded after all requirements of the contract are met. Any library related functions will be exempt from this policy. Janet Washburn advised the fire chief and building inspector checked out the room today and the room will hold 89 chairs with tables and 192 chairs without tables. Councilperson Spring asked if there was a time set on when the room can be rented for because if someone rents the room Saturday night and no one checks the room until Monday and finds damage to the facility the city put money into. Mr. Sawyer advised the same protocol that is used for the community center would be used. Councilperson Spring asked if there would be a time when someone has to be out of the facility. Mr. Sawyer advised part of the purpose of the four-hour block time line is to let multiple people use the facility in a day's time. There was discussion about allowing people to use the facility until one or two o'clock in the morning. Councilperson Spring stated once the people get done, will the city police have to check the doors to make sure the building is locked up. Mr. Sawyer advised the city will try to meet whatever needs there are contract by contract and if there are problems, the council will be notified. He asked Ms. Washburn if the city requires a deposit other than a key deposit for the community center. Ms. Washburn advised \$100.00. Mayor Corey stated this might be something to look at specifically with this contract. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the city should start looking at hiring a cleaning business to clean the buildings like some of the schools and businesses are doing to save some money and get the manpower out on the street. Mr. Sawyer advised that would be something to look at if there is a real need. Since the library is located right there, the city might look at entertaining an agreement with the library to rent out and clean the facility for a percentage of the rental fee, which the library is interested in. Councilperson Spring advised it would make more sense for people to go there to rent the facility.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Marta Lois from Caledonia Township stated she wanted to compliment the city council on how it has handled SATA. She has been going to the meetings in Caledonia Township and when Larry Alpert came to the meeting he told them that SATA was in debt \$77,000. She further stated she did not think they run their business very good. She has seen empty busses running many times and one time she went to Wal-Mart and they were waiting by the building for a little while and then left. She also stated they should charge more for their fees.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh reminded everyone that Larry Runyan would be in charge of the dump on weekends. Mayor Corey stated he made a call to Joe DeCaire and he is trying to arrange for the dumpsters on September 17 and 18. Councilperson Mehigh asked how the city would proceed and if there would be an organized plan. Mayor Corey advised he did not know if anything had been set up but there should be at least two volunteers to make sure there is no hazardous stuff dropped off. Mr. Sawyer advised a press release should be sent out. Mayor Corey stated he does not want to do that until the city knows it has the dumpsters.

Councilperson Spring stated the council was going to revisit the speeding issue. Mayor Corey stated Councilperson Runyan brought up the automatic sign and advised data is being recorded even if the sign is not flashing. Councilperson Spring asked if the officers sit from this time to this time running traffic on a road and if the traffic time is logged in so when there is a city council meeting someone can state that an officer did sit on that street for this many hours. If a police call comes in, the officer would break for that call but at least the city can be accountable to anybody in the district that traffic is being done on that street and have the hours right here. Councilperson Spring further stated one of the worse times on Norton Street is around 5:00 p.m. Mr. Sawyer advised he would check to see if streets are logged by time or hours. Councilperson Sanderson stated he agreed with Councilperson Spring and this is what the city council needs and he has personally asked Chief Hetfield many times to patrol South Shiawassee Street but he has not seen a police car there in the last two months other than driving through. Councilperson Spring asked if the city still had a bicycle patrol officer. Mr. Sawyer advised no. Councilperson Spring asked if the officer who did that moved on. Mr. Sawyer advised the county hired the officer away from the city.

Councilperson Runyan stated Mrs. Cummings on Ferry Street called him the other day and advised she buys bottled water because she cannot drink her tap water in that area. He advised her he would have someone check the line. Mr. Sawyer advised he would have someone check on that because he had a report on another street in town that there is a funky smell to the water once a month.

Councilperson Johnson stated the front of the Strawsine building looks very nice now and is very attractive.

Councilperson Sanderson thanked the parks and recreation workers for staying in town to work at the pancake breakfast in conjunction with the bridge walk. It was his understanding the breakfast went very good people wise. He stated there was a brief discussion last year about opening up the community center during the winter months so the older people in Corunna can exercise one or two days a week. During one of the card parties, quite a few of the senior citizens mentioned it would be great and suggested discussing this item at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilperson Runyan stated if someone needs to exercise they could pick up the key to the brush pile.

Mayor Corey stated he also wanted to thank the parks and recreation for doing a nice job this weekend and there were a whole lot more people that what was expected. The walk between Owosso and Corunna went off pretty well and there were about 150 people who did the walk. He thanked Ms. Washburn and the Friends of the Library board for organizing the city bridge walk and dedication. He further stated the Strawsine Complex looks great and the department of public works did a great job of painting the building. He also stated he wanted to thank Joe and Tami Sawyer for hosting the wine and cheese party that Capital Consultants came to.

Councilperson Mehig asked if the city council wanted to do something for the City of Perry mayor who lost his daughter. Councilperson Johnson stated she would order an arrangement and let council know how much it cost.

ADJOURN: Wagner moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

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