

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 18, 2005

Present: Corey, Johnson, Sanderson, Spring, Wagner.

Absent: Runyan (excused), Mehigh (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Helen Granger, The Independent; Judy Horton; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Cheryl Warren, The Argus Press; Paul Smith; Officer Paul Richardson, Police Department; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; 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 January 4, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Presentation by Odyssey of the Mind.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

PRESENTATION BY ODYSSEY OF THE MIND: Paul Smith from the Corunna Odyssey of the Mind Boosters presented the city with a check in the amount of \$810.00 from the proceeds of McCurdy's Revenge. Councilperson Johnson stated this year was extraordinary. Mr. Smith advised next year will be completely different.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 8:00 P.M. FEBRUARY 7, 2005 TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO SECTION 50-139, DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS OR EXPLOSIVES: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to set a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. February 7, 2005 to consider amendment to Section 50-139, Discharge of Fireworks or Explosives.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Johnson, Spring, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS: Councilperson Johnson

stated there was a citywide survey sent out several years ago and asked if the city had any information from that survey to look at. Ms. Long advised she had a copy of the survey. Councilperson Johnson asked Mr. Sawyer to look at that survey to see if anything had been forgotten. Mr. Sawyer went over the sample survey he received from Huntington Woods. Councilperson Sanderson suggested asking the people if they favor one day and same company curbside garbage pick up. Councilperson Johnson suggested asking the people if they favor allowing alcohol in the community center. Councilperson Spring asked Mr. Sawyer if he was trying to have the survey done and ready for the ad-hoc committee. Mr. Sawyer advised the city needs to identify what the target audience for the survey would be and asked who the answers should come from. Mayor Corey advised he felt the residents including renters should be asked and not just the property owners. Mr. Sawyer advised his recommendation would be to mail the survey to the 2,300 registered voters, which would get the survey to the target audience. Mayor Corey asked what the bulk rate cost would be. Mr. Sawyer advised the cost for regular postage would be about \$900. Mayor Corey asked how the city would get the surveys back. Mr. Sawyer advised there could be a collection point at city hall, a church, rotary club or the committee could collect the surveys. He further advised mailing the surveys would be the most effective way to get the surveys to the people. The total investment cost would be about \$1,200 for postage, envelopes and copy charges. Mayor Corey asked if a motion was needed. Mr. Sawyer advised yes to instruct him to proceed. Wagner moved, Sanderson seconded to instruct the city manager to proceed with finishing the survey in preparation for mailing to the registered voters.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Councilperson Spring asked if the ad-hoc committee would be involved with the survey. Mr. Sawyer advised the members of the ad-hoc committee were sent a copy of the information that council has. Mike Welte has informed him that he no longer wishes to serve on the committee and Mark Hetfield has informed him that he would like to serve on the committee. Mr. Sawyer went over the Huntington Woods survey/study and advised the city would not get a Huntington Woods study done in two months. He further advised he would like Alex Allie to make a presentation to the committee. He asked council what they expected from the committee. Councilperson Johnson stated she did not feel the council should be a part of the committee. If the council tells the committee what it is going to do, the council will be dictating and that is not what she thought the committee wants. Mr. Sawyer advised it is important that council not be involved, which Mr. Allie expressed to him by phone, but that is why Huntington Woods hired a consultant because they did not want a committee that felt they were being spoon fed by the city manager. Mr. Sawyer stated the city has several active resident/employees that want to be involved, which Huntington Woods did not allow but Corunna is smaller than Huntington Woods. Mayor Corey asked council what they expect from the committee. Councilperson

Sanderson advised he felt three things would come out of the committee and two of them he would not like. Mayor Corey asked what the three things were. Councilperson Sanderson advised he would pass. Councilperson Wagner stated he agreed that two months was not enough time because budget issues were the main reason the committee was put together. He has not really thought about what he was looking for but knew the council was looking for input about the budget. Councilperson Johnson stated her term is up in November and she would not be running again but she would have liked to know how the residents felt about the council. She further stated the ad-hoc committee should decide how they want to proceed because the committee is made up of older adults and she felt they could handle things on their own. Councilperson Spring stated he would like to see the committee take an overview of the budget, review the survey and use any other resources they have to help give the council input as to budget considerations. Mayor Corey stated he would prefer no city employees on the committee because a quarter of the committee is made up of city employees. If he were sitting at home he would wonder why there are city employees sitting on an ad-hoc committee. He further stated once the committee gets their information, Mr. Sawyer should only be at the meeting upon their request. All city employees could be used as resources for this committee and if the committee wants to speak to the employees, then it is important for those resources to be available. He also stated this committee is not to replace the council because the council has the ultimate job and responsibility to make decisions for the public. Residents look for immediate satisfaction because nobody likes to pay more taxes. Mayor Corey advised the city could either work itself into a hole or it could look at long-range things and it is his view that elected officials need to look at city government in the long term. He further advised the survey should be looked over and scrutinized by the committee. Councilperson Spring stated when the budget survey was done, the city employees were asked to rate the budget concerns. Mayor Corey stated the council, department heads and employees were asked to prioritize city services, which is different than a survey. Councilperson Spring stated if the ad-hoc committee is going to tell the council what its priorities should be then the employees are going to have a say twice. Mr. Sawyer advised the city employees outside of department heads did not participate in the prioritization survey that was done. He further advised this was done to see what their thought processes were compared to council. Councilperson Johnson stated she sees the employees as city residents and not just as employees because they are voters and want to help. Councilperson Spring asked if this was something the ad-hoc committee could determine by holding an organizational meeting up front to address the situation themselves. Mr. Sawyer stated while council was discussing their committee expectations, he was working on a phase one and phase two approach. Phase one will have the committee develop and distribute the community attitude survey to the residents of Corunna, the committee will attend a presentation by Alex Allie, who has agreed to come into town and meet with the committee or with the council to help develop a citizens committee and the city manager and staff will attend presentations on the financial trends facing the city. If the committee cannot make it through those three tasks then there is no committee. Councilperson Wagner stated he thought Mr. Sawyer's idea was a good way to get things rolling. Councilperson Spring asked if a time limit would be set. Mr. Sawyer advised the first report from the committee would be the results of the survey and he felt 60 days should be sufficient and if the committee needs an extension, the committee can request one. Sanderson moved, Johnson seconded to have the city manager proceed with the committee to complete items one, two and three of phase one and report back to council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESOLUTION ADDING CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP TO THE SATA BOARD OF

DIRECTORS: Mayor Corey advised he read in the paper that the SATA board approved a resolution to add Caledonia Township to the SATA board and it passed unanimously, which he thought was a good thing. Once again, the SATA board chose not to follow the agreement and apparently this was brought up but the majority of the board felt that since there was a representative of each municipality or governmental unit present that was all the SATA board needed. He further advised the contract states the resolution has to be approved by the board and by each party in the agreement and that is why he put the item on the agenda. He called the Caledonia Township supervisor and explained he did not think there would be an issue but everyone needs to follow the agreement and part of Corunna's issue with SATA is that they have not followed the agreement. Mr. Sawyer stated it is ironic that within the resolution Caledonia Charter Township is being asked to accept and comply with the provisions of the agreement. Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the following resolution approving the addition of Caledonia Charter Township to the SATA Agreement:

RESOLUTION NO. 011805-01

RESOLUTION TO BECOME PARTY TO SATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, in an election held on August 3, 2004, voters in the Caledonia Charter Township approved a request for additional millage to support the public transportation services provided by the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency; and,

WHEREAS, Caledonia Charter Township desires to become a party to the Agreement made on October 1, 1999 by, and between, the cities of Corunna, Durand, Owosso, and Perry and the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District which established the Shiawassee Area Transportation Agency (SATA); and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of said Agreement Caledonia Charter Township desires to appoint a single member to the SATA Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, Section 3 of said Agreement provides the method for application by additional public agencies to become parties to the Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Caledonia Charter Township, acting by and through its board of trustees, does hereby agree to accept and comply with the provisions of the aforementioned Agreement; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supervisor and Clerk of Caledonia Charter Township are hereby authorized and directed to execute documents for, and on behalf, of Caledonia Charter Township related to becoming a party to the aforementioned Agreement.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Spring stated when he first came on the council there was talk about doing something with the industrial sign and he went by there the other day and it looks awful. Mr. Sawyer advised this is on his Joe has done nothing list. Mayor Corey advised council approved \$2,500 to get it fixed.

Councilperson Johnson thanked the people who put their name on the committee and she was glad to see that people stepped forward. This is something the city needs and she wished them great success.

Councilperson Wagner advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he heard in Owosso that the high water in the last week or two moved the Corunna bridge.

ADJOURN: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:15 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK