

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, April 18, 2005

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Gary Arnold, Capital Consultants; Arnold Dunchock; Shirley Sanderson; Officer Angelo Panos, Police Department; Mike O'Leary; Cheryl Warren, The Argus Press; 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 April 4, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Wagner moved, Spring seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Item No. 3) Discussion on D.A.R.E. Funding, Item No. 4) Budget Recommendation Presentation and Item No. 5) Consider Recommendation From Labor Committee.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Michael and Donald O'Brien advised they were at the meeting for the last Merit Badge they need for an Eagle Scout project.

Tim Gibson introduced himself and advised he was a member of the Corunna Fire Department and was running for Mr. Owosso for Hospice and would appreciate the council's support.

DISCUSSION ON D.A.R.E. FUNDING: Mayor Corey advised he and Councilperson Runyan

went to the D.A.R.E. program the other night, which was very well attended and this was the biggest class that has graduated. Senator Valde Garcia was the keynote speaker and Officers Richardson and Blahnik deserve a great deal of credit for keeping the program going and the kids think a great deal of both of them. Mayor Corey further advised there was a \$7,000 grant presentation from the Shiawassee Community Education Foundation and a plaque was given to Carol Soule. It was his recollection that Officer Blahnik applied for a grant and was told there was not any money available this year. He further advised he talked to John Smith after the program and asked him if the grant money was this current year or next year and was told the money was for this current year. Mayor Corey stated he was somewhat confused about why the city does not have any money coming in and that is why he wanted to bring this item up for discussion. Chief Hetfield advised the presentation was for last year's money. Mayor Corey advised that was not what John Smith told him. Chief Hetfield advised the money in the budget was receipted in last year. Mayor Corey asked what school year the money was for. Chief Hetfield advised 2003-2004. Mayor Corey stated when John Smith told him the money was for this year, the money was actually for last year. Chief Hetfield advised that was correct. Mayor Corey advised he needed to get back with John Smith because he thought last year was the last year the state gave the city any money. Chief Hetfield advised no it was the year before. Last year was the first year the police department used the community foundation to fund the program and it was a one-time shot from them. Mayor Corey asked if the \$7,000 was for the 2003-2004 school year. Chief Hetfield advised yes. Councilperson Mehig stated he would like to know how much money would be coming in for this program for the next fiscal budget. There was \$700 or \$800 from the Corunna V.F.W. and asked if this was the only money that was coming in. Chief Hetfield advised that was correct and most of the money from the Corunna V.F.W. goes towards supplies and books needed for the classrooms. Councilperson Mehig asked if there had been any discussion that only 30 percent of the kids in school are Corunna citizens and if any of the other government agencies and townships have been asked to put in money too. As tight as the budget is, the city is not going to be able to support the program. Chief Hetfield advised there is a possibility that other governmental units can be asked for a contribution but there has not been an issue before because the program has always been well funded. Councilperson Mehig stated it would be very difficult for the City of Corunna to fund this program by itself especially in the city's current situation. Mayor Corey asked if there had been any discussion between the school system about taking the program out of the police department and having the school system assume the cost because this is an educational program. Chief Hetfield advised no. Councilperson Sanderson asked how much money the City of Corunna puts in for the program other than the police wages. Mayor Corey advised that is what the city is paying for. Chief Hetfield advised there are other donors including families who want to donate money. Councilperson Sanderson asked what the total police wages were for a year. Mayor Corey asked if those figures would be in the budget this year. Mr. Sawyer advised he would get more data on this. During the 2003-2004 year, there was an additional \$650 spent on miscellaneous supplies in addition to wages. He further advised there was nothing budgeted for supplies this year. Councilperson Sanderson stated he felt it would be worth the city's time to go to John Smith and tell him the city needs some financial help from the outlining areas since the city only has 30 percent of the kids in the program or the city will have to do away with the program. Mayor Corey stated he thought this issue should be discussed during the budget workshop because it has to be determined if the city can afford 30 percent. He further stated the Corunna V.F.W. contributed \$500 and the ladies auxiliary contributed \$250 and

asked if this money was for last year too. Chief Hetfield advised no, the money contributed was for this year. The Corunna V.F.W. contributed \$750 and the ladies auxiliary contributed \$250. Councilperson Sanderson stated he spoke to Mr. Hagan at the V.F.W. dinner and was told if the City of Corunna could not support the D.A.R.E. program, the V.F.W. would pay the whole amount. He did not know if this was something the V.F.W. has discussed or if Mr. Hagan was just mentioning something without knowing all of the facts but Mr. Hagan did advise him the D.A.R.E. program was their pet project to fund. Mayor Corey advised this is a lot of money for the V.F.W. to donate. Chief Hetfield advised there has been discussion about going back to the community foundation and the Cook Foundation and having a golf outing to raise funds. Councilperson Runyan asked if the city has checked with other places that have the D.A.R.E. program to find out if the officers are paid or if the officers volunteer their time. Mr. Sawyer advised some places are different and asked if there were other places in the county that have the program. Chief Hetfield advised the county and New Lothrop have the program and they are all paid positions. Councilperson Sanderson asked how many communities in the last year have dropped the D.A.R.E. program because of the expense. Chief Hetfield advised some communities have dropped the program for various reasons and there are other communities who have picked up the program. Councilperson Sanderson stated he realizes it is a good program but if the city cannot afford it, it cannot afford it.

7:15 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON CDBG BLOCK GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO FERRY STREET PUMP STATION AND MCCURDY PARK INTERCEPTOR SEWER REPLACEMENT: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to leave the regular session and open the public hearing to receive comments on CDBG Block Grant for Improvements to Ferry Street Pump Station and McCurdy Park Interceptor Sewer Replacement.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:15 p.m.

Gary Arnold from Capital Consultants explained public comments and questions are encouraged during the public hearing and public comments can be submitted in writing to the city clerk until Wednesday, April 20, 2005. He further explained the City of Corunna entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the Department of Environmental Quality in 2001 to resolve the sewer backups that have historically occurred in Corunna. A report was sent to the Department of Environment Quality in the spring of 2004 that set forth a number of measures that would prevent additional sewer backups and overflows. He also explained two of the measures were to upgrade the main pump station, which is located on Ferry Street by the Stu Coutts Pavilion and to build a new larger sewer system south of the pump station, across the river and into McCurdy Park. A notice of intent seeking grant money was filed with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation on January 14 and based upon this notice of intent, a full application was requested. Mr. Arnold advised the cost of the project is \$1.3 million dollars and the city has requested a \$650,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with the city responsible for paying \$675,000. Since the project is located within the flood plain, two additional public notices have to be published in order to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the relationship between the construction and flood plain

issues. There were no comments from the public. Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to close the public hearing to receive comments on CDBG Block Grant for Improvements to Ferry Street Pump Station and McCurdy Park Interceptor Sewer Replacement and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:27 p.m.

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the following authorizing resolution on CDBG Block Grant for Improvements to Ferry Street Pump Station and McCurdy Park Interceptor Sewer Replacement:

**CDBG AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION
FERRY STREET PUMP STATION AND INTERCEPTOR SEWER UPGRADES**

WHEREAS, the City of Corunna has made application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation requesting a Public Works Infrastructure Project Grant in the amount of \$625,000 for construction of the upgrades to the Ferry Street raw sewage pump station and the tributary interceptor sewers, herein after referred to as “the Project”, and

WHEREAS, the City of Corunna will provide a matching contribution of \$675,000 to fund the proposed project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS

- 1) The Project is consistent with the City’s Community Development Plan Described in the CDBG Application.
- 2) The Project will enable the City to provide more efficient and better quality public services to City residents, at least fifty-one percent of who is low and moderate income.
- 3) No project costs (CDBG and non-CDBG) will be incurred prior to the formal grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures and receipt of formal written authorization from the MEDC to incur costs.
- 4) The City of Corunna is authorized to submit the Michigan CDBG application and further appoints Joe Sawyer, Corunna City Manager as the authorized person to execute the Application and related grant forms on behalf of the City of Corunna.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City of Corunna, Shiawassee County, Michigan, by its City Council, has caused this Resolution to be enacted this date.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SPARKLERS) AND SECTION 50-139 (DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS OR EXPLOSIVES): Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to leave the regular session and open the public hearing to consider amendments to Section 50-152 (Manufacture, Possession and Sale of Firecrackers, Rockets, Sparklers) and Section 50-139 (Discharge of Fireworks or Explosives).

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Corey explained Section 50-142 and Section 50-139 would be combined into one section, which would become Section 50-139. There were no comments from the public. Councilperson Johnson stated there were problems last year during the Fourth of July activities when people were told they were not allowed to bring sparklers into the park and asked how the changes would affect that situation. Mayor Corey advised the city would now have something to support what is being said because no one will be allowed to bring sparklers or anything else into the park because it would be against the city's ordinance. He further advised people would be able to discharge fireworks and use sparklers on private property without a permit. A permit would only be needed if they were to be discharged on public property. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to close the public hearing to consider amendments to Section 50-142 (Manufacture, Possession and Sale of Firecrackers, Rockets, Sparklers) and Section 50-139 (Discharge of Fireworks or Explosives) and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:38 p.m.

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the amendments to Section 50-142 (Manufacture, Possession and Sale of Firecrackers, Rockets, Sparklers) and Section 50-139 (Discharge of Fireworks or Explosives):

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

BUDGET RECOMMENDATION PRESENTATION: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his budget recommendations with the council. He advised budget requests for expenditures exceeded revenues by \$334,000. He has recommended pay freezes across the board with the exception of the department of public works contract and the clerk/treasurer position. He further advised the Fire Board Capital Fund has been set up as a city fund and all activity in that account will be tracked so the city will always know what is going on in that fund. The fire board has not seen any of his budget recommendations and the fire chief has worked with him but the actual budget requests should come from the fire board. He also advised it would be nice to have the fire board's budget requests prior to the budget adoption in May. Mr. Sawyer explained he was recommending lowering the sewer commodity charge from \$3.00 to \$2.75 per 1,000 gallons, changing the rate structure to give the first 1,000 gallons of sewer at no charge, raising the sewer improvement charge from \$7.00 to \$9.00, and decreasing the sewer base charge from \$7.00 to \$6.25. He further

explained the water improvement charges have been too low because the city has a lot of water debt and a lot of those costs are being absorbed in the 1,000 per gallon rate but the improvement charge is suppose to pay for any improvement expenses. He is also recommending lowering the water commodity charge from \$3.00 to \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons, keeping the meter charge the same, decreasing the water base charge from \$9.00 to \$7.75, and raising the water improvement charge from \$2.00 to \$8.00. These changes will create a more logical rate schedule and those people on fixed incomes and have very little water usage will not see a fluctuation in their bill.

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM LABOR COMMITTEE: Mr. Sawyer went over a chart showing what the costs and savings would be for the police chief position. He advised he thought it would be the goal of management and council to try to put a full-time position back in place but it would cost the city money. The city might save a couple thousand dollars the first year, but within two or three years, the city would lose \$12,000 a year if the position is re-filled with a full-time position. He further advised a part-time police chief would save the city about \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year and if someone from within is promoted, the savings would be about \$40,000 to \$45,000. He also advised he needs direction from council because May 13 is Mark Hetfield's retirement date and he starts his vacation leave April 25. He asked council if he should advertise for a full-time or part-time position. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought it was a no-brainer because financially, the city cannot go back to a full-time police chief. He thought there was a general feeling from the labor committee that the city does not have the money for a full-time police chief. Mr. Sawyer advised he thought the goal was to try to save the city money through attrition without forcing layoffs within the city anymore than absolutely necessary. Mayor Corey advised the recommendation from the labor committee is to hire a part-time police chief and to have the city manager advertise for a part-time police chief. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to instruct the city manager to advertise and interview for a part-time police chief and to make a recommendation to council prior to June 13. Mayor Corey asked if the city manager would interview all of the candidates who come forward or if the city council will do this. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought Mr. Sawyer should do the screening and if he wants help from the council then he should bring it to council. Mr. Sawyer advised it is his job by the charter to make a recommendation to the council. He might create an interview team but he would probably look outside instead of bringing council into this process because it would be his recommendation and not the recommendation of a committee. Councilperson Runyan asked if the part-time police chief would work 15 or 20 hours. Mr. Sawyer advised that would have to be negotiated and at this point, his budget recommendation is structured for 20 hours. Mayor Corey advised one of the issues that came up in the labor committee was the city manager has 30 days to make a recommendation from the date of vacancy. Councilperson Mehigh advised his feeling is that the position is not vacant until his retirement date.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Sanderson advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Wagner advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Johnson advised she had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Runyan stated the D.A.R.E. graduation was a very good ceremony and you have to see one so you can see the emotion in the kids and the support the kids have from their parents.

Councilperson Spring advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Mehig asked if more research could be done on the D.A.R.E. program. There are a lot of loose ends on how much it would cost the city and he felt more information was needed. Mr. Sawyer referred council to page 31 of the budget.

Councilperson Mehig stated he personally likes the program because it is good for the kids and they get to know the police officers but his only concern was if the city has the money. Mayor Corey stated if he was reading the budget correctly, the city spent a total of 448 hours for D.A.R.E. at a cost of \$15,565. Councilperson Runyan stated he thought it was important to know what the city is spending on the D.A.R.E. program and the city needs to seek different avenues for funding. Mayor Corey advised even with the \$7,000 that came in last year, the city is still spending another \$7,000 or \$8,000. Chief Hetfield advised the city was not actually spending that money. Mayor Corey asked why. Chief Hetfield advised the city is already paying the officer for a 40-hour week. Mayor Corey advised the city is not paying the officer to do the job the city is paying him to do. The city is paying him to go to the schools. Chief Hetfield advised that is what the officer is assigned to do so that is his job and it is what he being paid to do. Mayor Corey advised he understood that but when the officer is doing D.A.R.E. as part of his shift, the officer is not doing patrol work, taking complaints and essentially is not on duty as the city would envision a police officer to be on duty. It would be one thing if the officer is called out in the middle of the class but that is not happening. Chief Hetfield advised this has happened before. Mayor Corey asked Chief Hetfield if he was stating that it was not costing the city anything for D.A.R.E. Chief Hetfield advised correct. Mayor Corey stated he disagreed. Chief Hetfield advised what the difference would be if an officer was assigned to a K-9 unit and he was out doing dog tracking and was not stopping a speeder. He asked if the city would lose money on that officer because he was not doing patrol work. Mayor Corey advised it is hard to use an example if the example does not exist. Councilperson Mehig asked if some of these organizations advertise for donations. Mayor Corey stated if there are other drug monies available for the schools then these monies should be incorporated into the program. The most fair way to do this is to have the school system contract independently with an off-duty officer and pay the officer out of their per pupil dollars because this is an educational class. He further stated he does not know how effective D.A.R.E. is but there is a lot going on in between fifth grade and 12th grade. Chief Hetfield advised that is why D.A.R.E. is also being taught in seventh grade. Mayor Corey stated he thought that was good but he was not sure it is all that effective without some type of follow-up in high school. Chief Hetfield asked if the council wants the officer on the road or in school teaching. Mayor Corey advised it is pretty hard to put a value on educating kids on drugs versus catching a speeder.

Mayor Corey congratulated Janet Washburn on winning the Fourth of July raffle money. He congratulated Joe Borgstrom for being selected as the chamber president. Mayor Corey reminded council about the ribbon cutting at Aunt Sheryl's Flowers on Tuesday, April 26 at noon. Mayor Corey advised the Fourth of July fireworks are all set. He

congratulated the Fourth of July Commission for doing the raffle. They raised a lot of money and did a good job for their first year.

ADJOURN: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:14 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK