

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, October 3, 2005

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

Absent: Runyan (excused), Wagner (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Shirley Sanderson; Jack & Tina Johnson; Gary Arnold, Capital Consultants; Helen Granger, The Independent; Nina Hall; Bob Hoschner; Cheryll Warren, The Argus Press; Arnold Dunchock; 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, Sanderson seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated September 19, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Councilperson Wagner arrived at 7:03 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Sanderson moved, Spring seconded to approve the agenda as presented by changing Item No. 1) Consider Dam Inspection to Item No. 1A, and adding Item No. 1) Excuse Larry Runyan from October 3, 2005 Council Meeting and Item No. 6) Discussion on Money Transfer from City Services Contingency to Public Works Right-Of-Way Maintenance.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Mayor Corey advised he had something to bring to council that was given to him by Bill Striggow who was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Mr. Striggow advised he was aware that council would probably go ahead with the parking lot approval and the closure of Brady Street but he was concerned about the condition of Corunna Avenue east of Shiawassee Street to Comstock Street, which is not in good shape. Mayor Corey further advised he told Mr. Striggow that Corunna Avenue was changed to a federal major street and is up for reconstruction. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Sawyer to elaborate about this issue. Mr. Sawyer advised there are two street classifications; local streets and

major streets and within the major street classification, there are two classifications; federal and state. Federal major streets are eligible for a \$375,000 Small Urban Grant, which is shared every other year with the City of Owosso. He further advised this money was used to rebuild McArthur Street, Kingsley Street, King Street, and North Shiawassee Street two years ago so this has been a valuable pot of money for the city to receive every other year. He also advised Tim Crawford applied to have East Corunna Avenue reclassified to a federal major street, which was successful so it qualifies for the Small Urban Grant and this street has been scheduled to be rebuilt in 2007 pending any additional delay. Councilperson Mehigh asked if there was a time frame on how long the Small Urban Grant monies would continue. Mr. Sawyer advised this has been a pretty successful program but there is no guarantee that the Owosso-Corunna region will get it every year. Mayor Corey suggested sending a letter to Senator Garcia and State Representative Ball because West Corunna Avenue, which is M-71, from Shiawassee Street to the road commission is in horrible shape and is a disgusting entry into the city. Mayor Corey advised maybe Senator Garcia and State Representative Ball could apply some pressure to the Michigan Department of Transportation to get something done.

EXCUSE LARRY RUNYAN FROM OCTOBER 3, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to excuse Councilperson Larry Runyan from the October 3, 2005 council meeting due to illness.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER DAM INSPECTION: Mr. Sawyer explained the city's dam requires inspection every four years. The State of Michigan had talked about eliminating the dam safety division and if they had done that, the city would have been off the hook, but the state reinstated funding for that program. He further explained the state used to do the inspections upon request but that part of the program was cut so the city does not have the ability to have the state inspect the dam. Four years ago, the city chose to do its own inspection because the city wanted to have a more thorough inspection than what the state required in order to get an estimate on what it would cost to repair the dam in the future. He also explained Spicer Engineering has provided the city with a proposal that would meet the state requirements in the amount of \$950.00, which is extremely reasonable. The city budgeted \$5,000 so it came in significantly under what the city thought it would cost to get the dam inspection done. Mayor Corey stated if the city decides to move forward, the signature on the agreement should be changed from Tim Crawford to Joe Sawyer. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to authorize the city manager to enter into an agreement with the Spicer Group Corporation for a dam inspection in the amount of \$950.00.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER MEDC DOWNTOWN LAND ASSEMBLY LOAN: Mr. Sawyer advised the intent of this portion of the project is to purchase the Perry building from the Shiawassee County government so it can be turned over to Chemical Bank for its bank development. This loan will also purchase the Hoschner Building from Bob Hoschner. He further advised this is a

\$450,000 interest free loan and since the state does not recognize the downtown development authority as a separate entity from the city, the state requires all paperwork approvals to come from the city council. A reciprocal agreement will be done between the city and the downtown development authority, which will make them responsible for carrying out the full terms of the loan including the loan payment. He also advised he will make sure this agreement is approved and in place before the city draws any of this loan money. It has been the intent of the downtown development authority to have a \$45,000 a year payment and the lease with the county is set up to accommodate that payment. Mr. Sawyer stated now that Chemical Bank has a signed buy/sell agreement with the downtown development authority, they will be submitting an application with the federal government for a bank branch, which is a 30-day application process and there should be no reason for denial. During that 30-day process, Chemical Bank will be working with the planning commission for a formal site plan approval and they will also have to go to the zoning board of appeals for some variances. He further stated he is hoping to close on the property within the next six weeks. Chemical Bank is planning to be very aggressive with their development and will be starting construction as soon as they can. Councilperson Mehig asked if the alley behind the post office would be upgraded and if Brady Street is still scheduled to be closed. Mr. Sawyer advised that is what has been proposed in the conceptual design, which has to go through the downtown development authority and planning commission for further review as well as a public hearing process. Councilperson Spring asked when people would be in the Olmsted Room of the Community District Library. Mr. Sawyer advised the health department should be moved into that room within the next 30 days. Councilperson Spring asked if there was a time frame on how long they would be in that room. Mr. Sawyer advised he anticipates six months and it is the county's intent to complete all of the renovations to the Hoschner Building before they start moving anybody in. The city still needs to finish the trim and kitchenette in the Olmsted Room, which has been budgeted this fiscal year and the county will be installing temporary partitions and running phone cords up against the wall so there will not be any physical alterations to that room. He further advised the downtown development authority will pay the city \$1,200 per month to have use of the room for this project. Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Loan with the City of Corunna (2005-03 ULA).

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

7:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING MEDC PARKING LOT GRANT: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to leave the regular session and go into the public hearing to consider the MEDC parking lot grant.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:30 p.m.

Gary Arnold from Capital Consultants explained the purpose of the public hearing is to solicit comments and questions from members of the audience and councilpersons on the MEDC application for downtown parking lot improvements. He further explained in

2004, a study was done that evaluated seven areas in the city that could be used to improve parking and the project titled Project One is the highest priority parking need as defined in the 2004 study. He also explained this parking lot project goes along with the bank project. The project entails closing Brady Street to improve parking in that area and upgrading the alley behind the post office. Mr. Arnold advised a Notice of Intent has been filed with the MEDC and they have requested the grant application. The total project cost is \$405,000 and the MEDC will be providing a \$240,000 grant. He further advised the city should receive the actual grant monies in about 60 days and construction will begin in May 2006 and go until the end of July. Councilperson Spring asked how many parking spaces would be generated. Mr. Arnold advised he thought the total was 60 to 70. Councilperson Mehigh asked how the curb cut will affect parking on the east side of Shiawassee Street in that one block. Mr. Sawyer advised one parking space would be lost. He further advised the county is interacting with the city on the design of the parking lot. It will be a city/county owned parking lot and will have the name of both governments on the deed. He also advised the city does not have any city controlled parking and the only parking lot that is owned by the downtown development authority is located behind the City Centre. Councilperson Mehigh asked who would be responsible for resurfacing the parking lot. Mr. Sawyer advised the downtown development authority and county would be responsible for maintaining the parking lot. As part of the financial model that was put together for the project, the county and downtown development authority would both set aside \$10,000 per year into a maintenance fund so when work needs to be done 10 to 15 years from now there will be money available to do the work. Mayor Corey asked if the agreement was completed. Mr. Sawyer advised no. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought that would be a very important agreement because the county could say they do not have the money to fix it. Mr. Sawyer advised the city does not want the parking lot to end up looking like it does now. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to leave the public hearing and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:42 p.m.

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the following CDBG Authorization Resolution No. 100305-1 Downtown Parking Facilities:

CITY OF CORUNNA  
(Shiawassee County, Michigan)

CDBG AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION  
DOWNTOWN PARKING FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Corunna has made application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation requesting an Economic Development Infrastructure Project Grant in the amount of \$240,000 for construction of downtown parking improvements herein after referred to as “the Project”, and

WHEREAS, the City of Corunna will provide a matching contribution of \$165,000 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: Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

CONSIDER BROADBAND AND CABLE FRANCHISE RESOLUTION: Mayor Corey read the Broadband and Cable Franchise Resolution No. 100305-2. Johnson moved, Mehig seconded to approve the following Resolution No. 100305-2 Supporting Local Control of Municipal Broadband and Cable Franchising:

**CORUNNA CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL  
BROADBAND AND CABLE FRANCHISING  
RESOLUTION NO. 100305-2**

**MUNICIPAL BROADBAND:**

WHEREAS, cities/villages have an interest in making available telecommunications technology which is beneficial to all businesses, economic development, municipal service provision, and all residents; and

WHEREAS, cities/villages are developing programs and municipal broadband initiatives to offer high-speed and wireless Internet to their citizens; and

WHEREAS, our city/village believes that internet services are an essential service that should be provided to all residents irrespective of age, race, education, or income level, and

WHEREAS, the goal of these municipal broadband initiatives is to prepare cities/villages and their workforce for the jobs and technology of tomorrow and enhance the ability to attract and retain high-tech jobs; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, Michigan urban and rural areas are underserved and uncompetitive, and in many cases the service is inadequate and unaffordable, and

WHEREAS, this is a local control issue and our residents should be able to request any essential service from their local government, and

WHEREAS, members of the Corunna City Council and Mayor do not believe claims that municipal broadband initiatives are anti-competitive and oppose any proposed local government moratorium on wireless in the State of Michigan.

**CABLE FRANCHISING:**

WHEREAS, cities/villages have a long and very successful history of supporting the introduction of cable services by the cable industry, a successful deployment made possible in large part by the current system of local cable franchising, and

WHEREAS, SBC and Verizon have been actively advocating across the country that local franchise agreements should be eliminated and replaced with a state-wide franchise agreements, and

WHEREAS, local government participation in cable franchising process ensures that all residents irrespective of age, race, education, or income level, receive the same service, and

WHEREAS, cities/villages revenue sharing has been significantly reduced over the last few years, and franchise fee revenue assists cities/villages in providing essential services, and

WHEREAS, franchise agreements assure that the public education channels are provided for the community, and

WHEREAS, a state-wide franchise system would deny consumers local resolution of problems, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corunna City Council and Mayor hereby affirm its support for municipal broadband initiatives creating broadband wireless service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Corunna Council and Mayor are opposed to any effort by the State Legislature to place a moratorium, or further limitations, on the expansion of municipal broadband in the State of Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corunna City Council and Mayor hereby affirm opposition to a statewide franchise agreement system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corunna City Council and Mayor hereby support the current local cable franchise agreement system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city clerk is to forward a copy of this adopted resolution to the Governor of Michigan Jennifer Granholm, State Representative Richard

Ball, State Senator Valde Garcia, the House Energy and Technology Committee, the Senate Technology and Energy Committee, and the Michigan Public Service Commission.

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

**CONSIDER PROPERTY REZONING:** Ms. Lawson advised a public hearing was held on September 28, 2005 by the Planning Commission on a rezoning request from the downtown development authority and the Planning Commission is recommending to the city council that they rezone the properties as recommended. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to rezone the following properties from RA (Residential) to RO (Residential/Office) as recommended by the Planning Commission on 09-28-05:

<b><u>Owner</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
Robert Milton 222 E. Mack St	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lot 1. Also E 15’ of Lot 2. Blk 13 Blk 13 026-10-013-001
Gerald & Patricia Knisley 214 E. Mack St	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lot 2 & 3 Blk 13. Ex E 15’ of Lot 2. 026-10-013-002
Donald Johnson 209 E. Mack St	City of Corunna - Orig Plat, Lot 9, Blk 13 026-10-013-009
Howard Frazier 211 E. Corunna Ave	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lots 10 & 11. Ex E 7’ of Lot 11. Blk 13 026-10-013-010
Maudie Olmsted 217 E. Corunna Ave	City of Corunna – Orig Plat, Lot 12. Also E 7’ of Lot 11. Blk 13 026-10-013-012
Marjorie Roberts 216 E. Corunna Ave	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lot 1 & E ½ of Lot 2. Blk 16 026-10-016-001
J.B. & Patricia Yott 212 E. Corunna Ave	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. E ½ of Lot 3 & W ½ of Lot 2. Blk 16 026-10-016-003
Ada Marie Dennis 215 E. McArthur St	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lots 11 & 12. Blk 16 026-10-016-011

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to rezone the following properties from RA (Residential) to C-1 (Commercial) as recommended by the Planning Commission on 09-28-05:

<b><u>Owner</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
Shiawassee County Mack St – Vacant	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lot 4 & E 10’ of Lot 5. Blk 13 026-10-013-004
Shiawassee County Brady St – Parking Lot	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lot 6 & W 40’ of Lot 5. Blk 13 026-10-013-006
Shiawassee County Brady St – Parking Lot	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lots 7 & 8. Blk 13 026-10-013-007

Shiawassee County Bld Auth City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lots 7 & 8 Blk 16. Also N. 16 ½  
McArthur St – County Jail ft of vacated alley adj to lots 7 & 8. Blk 16 026-10-016-007  
Shiawassee County City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lots 9 & 10. Blk 16  
McArthur St – Jail Property 026-10-016-009

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to rezone the following properties from C-1 (Commercial) to RO (Residential/Office) as recommended by the Planning Commission on 09-28-05:

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Description</u>
Ritter, Jane 118 W. Mack St	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. W 200’ of Blk 4. Also E ½ of vacated Woodworth St adjacent to said property. 026-10-004-001
General Telephone 105 W. Mack st	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. E 60’ of Lot 2 & E 60’ of Lot 3. Blk 11 026-10-011-003
Robert & Cecelia Winkler 316 N. Woodworth St	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. W 80’ of Lots 2 & 3. Blk 11 026-10-011-004
Gregory & Sandra Manee 314 N. Woodworth St	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lot 6. Blk 11 026-10-011-006
Doloris Demoss 312 N. Woodworth St	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. Lot 7 Blk 11 026-10-011-007
J.B. & Patricia Yott 212 E. Corunna Ave	City of Corunna – Orig Plat. W ½ of Lot 3. Blk 16 026-10-016-003

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

#### DISCUSSION ON MONEY TRANSFER FROM CITY SERVICES CONTINGENCY TO

PUBLIC WORKS RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE: Mr. Sawyer advised he reviewed the budget and found that the city budgeted \$5,500 for the dam inspection and since the dam inspection contract came in at \$950.00 there would be about \$4,000 available to use on trees. He further advised \$3,000 was budgeted for tree removal in the right-of-way but the city has already spent about \$3,500. If council wants to use the savings from the dam inspection for tree removal then it would require in interdepartmental transfer, which he has the authority to do, but if council wants to pull \$4,000 from that department, now would be the time to do that. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the five or six trees that need to be taken care of could be done now and use the rest of the money later. Mr. Sawyer advised the city usually has some tree problems in the winter months due to ice storms but he thought the city could take care of those five or six trees now and he would not utilize any more of that money without letting council know. He further advised he does not need a motion for that to happen. Mayor Corey advised he spoke with Jeff Hetfield a couple of days ago about the small trees in the alley behind his house and he took a look at those trees and told Mr. Hetfield that he did not know if the trees were in the right-of-way or not. Mr. Sawyer advised all of the tree removals go to the Forest Management Commission for approval unless a tree is absolutely dead and is falling over.

If there is a tree that is living or has the potential to survive, the Forest Management Commission is contacted to make a decision on whether to remove the tree or not. Ms. Lawson advised she has a list of trees that are absolutely dead but the city ran out of money before they could be removed. Mayor Corey asked if department of public works could take down the trees that do not have overhead wires over them. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Sanderson asked what answer he could give the person that called him today. Mr. Sawyer advised the tree will be removed within the next month. Councilperson Spring asked if the Forest Management Commission could be notified when there are trees that need to be taken down in emergency situations. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Spring advised the commission members are under the impression that the commission would be notified when the department of public works removes trees limbs hanging over the sidewalk. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the Forest Management Commission has a list of trees that need to be removed or if the list was at city hall. Mr. Sawyer advised the commission should have a list of trees that need to be removed except for the new ones that have come in. Ms. Lawson advised she has applications on all of trees that are to be removed.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton advised she wanted to let everybody know that the parks and recreation commission would be having a Halloween party again this year and the commission needs all of the help it can get. Mayor Corey asked when the Halloween party would be held. Ms. Horton advised October 31<sup>st</sup>.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Sanderson stated he thought the council owed Ms. Lawson, Mr. Sawyer and anyone else who worked on the downtown plan a thank you for all of their hard work.

Councilperson Wagner stated all of the city's hard work is starting to pay off.

Councilperson Johnson advised the fire department received a \$132,240 federal grant for operations and safety, which was announced by Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin. She further advised the fire department has been working hard to get any type of grant so it is nice to see a grant come into this area.

Councilperson Spring stated he was at the Homecoming Parade Friday night and he was under the assumption that no one is allowed to throw out candy during a parade but there were at least 15 kids running in front of vehicles to pick up candy that was thrown in the middle of the street. He understands this was a school function but this is something that everybody else has to abide by and the school system needs to abide by this same rule

because he would have been upset if anyone had gotten hurt. Councilperson Spring asked if this was something that could be addressed with the school system sometime in the future. Mayor Corey advised he felt the police department should make a friendly call to the school system before next year's parade.

Councilperson Mehig stated there were a couple of people on the fire department that worked very hard putting the grant together. He further stated the ambulance service has \$50,000 in the bank and the ambulance board is excited about this.

Mayor Corey reminded council that Leftys is having a fundraiser for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund on Thursday starting at 6 p.m. He advised Leftys will give 25 percent of the net sales to the Red Cross. Mayor Corey stated when the council passed the budget in May, the police department was funding the part-time employees on a quarterly basis and a quarterly report was supposed to be given to the council so he hopes the council will have a report from the police chief at the next council meeting as to how the situation is going. He further stated he did not know if the department was budgeted for the year but he thought a budget amendment would be needed for the next quarter. He also stated he would not be at the next downtown development authority meeting and asked Mr. Sawyer to be his designee.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:15 p.m.

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STEVE COREY, MAYOR

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NICHOLE COWDREY, CITY CLERK/TREASURER