

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, July 6, 2009

Present: Kerridge, Mehigh, Jessen, Spring, Johnson, Haskins, Hall.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Bus & Carol Spaniola; Janine Kingsbury; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Keith & Diane Johnson; Theresa & Matt Pickler; David & Mary Dumond; Bob Hoschner; Jan Scott; Avery Weaver; Joe DeCaire; Bob Buschman; Don Olmsted; Jane Storrer; Margaret Brown; Gary Granger; Helen Granger, The Independent; Al Bayless; Brad Reichert; Jackie Pospisil; Lauretta Nye; Betty Walter; Leonard Walter; Bill Striggow; Joe Janca; Gene Sanderson; Nancy Best; Rachael Wineland; Chris & John Macey; Margaret Brown; Greg Huckins; Diane Moore; Becky Chargo; Kathy Deese; Marcy Brady; Nathan Bruttell, The Argus Press; Dustin Eva; Melody Kregzechmer; Karon Eva; Judy Ford; Ray & Lisa Murawa; Wayne LeDuc; Tim Lawson; Linda Milito; Amie Hebekeuser; Judy Bowers; Kathy Kilbreath; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the council chambers located in Corunna City Hall by Mayor Kerridge at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Spring moved, Johnson seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated June 15, 2009 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Spring, Johnson, Haskins, Mehigh.

No: None.

Abstain: Hall.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Spring seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Johnson, Haskins, Hall, Mehigh, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to approve the vendor disbursements dated June 26, 2009 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Haskins, Hall, Mehigh, Jessen, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Ford, 649 Adams Street, Owosso, stated she supported saving the

Corunna Community Center even though she lives in Owosso. She gave some information on how the city can save thousands of dollars a year in health insurance costs by supporting HR676, which expands Medicare for all.

Bus Spaniola, 517 W. Corunna Avenue, Corunna, stated he was at the meeting on behalf of the Committee to Save the Community Center. The committee has gotten a great deal of support for the building and advised \$5,419 has been raised in a little over one week. The committee would like the council to consider advancing the committee money to do the work that has been discussed with Jed Dingens and others, which will run around \$40,000 to \$50,000. Mr. Spaniola further stated the building will have to remain open during the fundraising or it will go down the drain. From a business perspective, the city has underestimated on what the building can be used for. He also stated the committee is asking the city council to give them a chance to raise the money needed to make the necessary repairs to save the building. Mr. Spaniola advised he had a lengthy conversation with Senator Debbie Stabenow who was at the pancake breakfast on Saturday. She explained that one of her staff members would be attending all of the future committee meetings and she would do all that she can to help find grant money or funding to repair the building.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer commended the Fourth of July Commission for putting on a spectacular event. Mayor Kerridge advised he was allowed to set off the first firework and that was quite a rush.

CONSIDER ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF AFSCME LOCAL 1059.02 (CORUNNA CITY DPW EMPLOYEES) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT: Johnson moved, Spring seconded to accept the one year extension of AFSCME Local 1059.02 (Corunna City DPW Employees) Collective Bargaining Agreement as per Article 49 of the contract.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Haskins, Hall, Mehig, Jessen, Spring, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROPRIATION OF A \$50,000 CASH ADVANCE FOR COMMUNITY CENTER FOOTING DRAIN/STORM SEWER REPAIRS AND DISABLED ACCESS/SOUTH PORCH IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED BUDGET AMENDMENTS, TO INCLUDE ONE YEAR OF OPERATING EXPENSES: Councilperson Johnson asked if there is a 12-month agreement or something in writing that the committee will pay the city back and what happens if they cannot honor that 12-month agreement. Mr. Sawyer advised there is no official agreement proposed because there is no organization to do an agreement with. It is an adhoc citizen committee formed to save the community center. Councilperson Johnson asked if the city council would be giving the committee a good faith agreement. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Johnson asked if the committee was positive that they can pay the city back in one year. Bus Spaniola advised the committee cannot give a 100 percent guarantee, but if the committee can raise \$5,400 in a week and the interest continues then he is certain the committee will come very close in taking care of that situation, but the building needs to be open at least another fiscal year. It would probably be safer to say the money would be paid back within 24 months, but it is the committee's desire to make sure the city is

made whole and does not get stung. He further advised the committee is here in good faith and it will do everything it can to get the building open and operating. Mr. Sawyer advised the city staff could not raise that kind of money in a year and it will not happen unless the citizen committee makes the fundraising happen. The city would also need the committee's continued involvement. Mr. Spaniola advised the architect has indicated that it will cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 to repair it. There are many organizations and individuals who have offered to donate their services and materials and the committee is following up on all those possibilities. Councilperson Johnson asked if the building is safe, liability wise, to keep it open and advised it would still have to close for a certain amount of time. Mr. Sawyer advised the committee recognizes that keeping it open for a year while it raises funds is unrealistic, but the city will lose rental income and activities if it closes for a year. He has heard the architectural work will be done in two weeks and the goal would be to start construction in a month's time, which will be before any of the fall activities begin. He further advised he would not recommend keeping the building open for another year in its current condition. Councilperson Spring stated he has been attending the committee meetings and made it a point that he would not attend any meetings where the committee bashed the council members. He further stated Councilperson Johnson has gone on the record that she is not against the community center and the council as a whole is not anti-community center. The city council has to look at numbers and the feeling he got from the first meeting was nothing but respect. He also stated Mr. Spaniola mentioned at one of the meetings that the community center was built during the depression when unemployment was 30 percent and the community pulled together to build it. Councilperson Spring advised he knows the committee will raise the \$50,000 and possibly more. This council knows there is a lot more work that needs to be done to the building and it needs to be done in phases. The first phase should address the safety concerns and water issues. He further stated there is currently \$45,000 to \$50,000 sitting in the council contingency fund. There is \$100,000 in the building municipal fund that could also be utilized so there are places where the money could be taken from. He understands the big concern that everyone has, but the council has to take a leap of faith because the community is asking the council to go out on a limb. If it was not for the people that are here and for the amount of people involvement, he did not know how he would vote. Mr. Sawyer ran through the budget amendments that would be needed if council decided to move forward with the committee's request. He reported that it would cost \$15,000 to keep the building open for another year so another \$10,000 would need to be budgeted to provide an adequate budget to operate the building. It would be his recommendation to take the additional \$10,000 from the council contingency fund. Mr. Sawyer stated Councilperson Spring asked him where the \$50,000 could be taken from and he would recommend taking it from the municipal building fund or splitting it between the general fund and municipal building fund. Since the council will be advancing the committee the funds, he would recommend utilizing fund balance because it is more of a loan than an advance. Once he entered the information in a spreadsheet and assuming the committee will raise the \$50,000 in a year's time, it is a budget neutral proposal since there will be \$50,000 in expenses and \$50,000 in new revenue, but there is no guarantee in the revenue side. Merilee Lawson stated the city advanced the historical commission \$25,000 dollars to move the Krib's house to the historical village. At that time, the commission pledged to the city council that they would pay the city \$5,000 per year until it was paid, which was done in five years. Mr. Sawyer advised if the committee is able to raise \$50,000 to repair the community

center, it will be a beautiful gift to the city. Councilperson Spring asked what it would cost to keep the community center open for one year. Mr. Sawyer advised \$10,003, which is a line item adjustment and does not need a budget amendment. If the committee does not raise a dime, the \$50,000 will come out of the general fund. Councilperson Jessen asked if money would be appropriated from the council contingency fund to the general fund. Mr. Sawyer advised no, it would be transferred to the parks operating fund, which is fund 208. Council can choose to take money from the general fund and leave the council contingency fund alone. Councilperson Spring asked someone to explain the possible tenants that the community center would gain after the repairs are made. Mr. Sawyer advised there is a church group that has expressed interest. Ms. Lawson advised that group is on hold because of handicap accessibility issues. Councilperson Jessen stated so it is pure speculation. Ms. Lawson advised yes. Councilperson Spring stated the council does not know if it will get a group in that building or not. The city does not want to lose its current tenants and if they leave, he is not sure the city will get them back. He further stated the new Memorial Healthcare Center was built with donations and if they can gather that kind of backing, the city should be able to get \$50,000. Councilperson Jessen stated that is not comparing apples to apples. Councilperson Johnson stated the county courthouse was repaired with donations. Becky Chargo stated the playscape in the park was built by donations. Bob Hoschner advised he has a business in town and is chairman of the DDA. The DDA sometimes get lost in the shuffle and Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Lawson does a great job in bringing the DDA information. One hundred percent of the people on the DDA are supportive of the community center. There are people from manufacturing, banks, school, business people, and individual homeowners on that board and it has a great amount of ability to help the city. A few years ago it was suggested to include McCurdy Park in the DDA district so the DDA can get monies to do things in that park. The DDA does not want to step on the city council's toes but it needs direction from the council that it is okay to help. At the last DDA board meeting, he was directed to send a letter to the council in show of support of saving the community center. He just wanted the council to know that the DDA is here to help. Councilperson Johnson asked what a good pay back timeline would be and she advised she was not in favor of five years. Councilperson Spring suggested one year and at the end of one year, the committee should report back to the council on its efforts. Councilperson Johnson stated she would like to receive a quarterly report. She informed the DDA that they could come to council at any time to say that they can help. Councilperson Jessen advised the DDA can step in anytime to help. He would like to see the casino fixed up, but that is not his number one priority. He has expressed that before and it has not changed. Ms. Lawson advised there are a lot of dedicated people in this town. Councilperson Johnson stated the council has never denied that they do not want it to happen. Councilperson Spring stated the city needs volunteers and when they are asked, they step up. Spring moved, Haskins seconded to approve the following Resolution No. 070609-01, Resolution Amending the 2009/2010 Budget:

**RESOLUTION 07-06-09-01**  
**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2009/2010 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS,** The City Council of the City of Corunna desires to Amend the 2009/2010 Budget to Adjust Departmental Expenditures and increase the Amended General Fund Appropriation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the budget for the City fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 after recommendation by the City Manager be amended by the City Council as described as follows:

<b><u>Fund. #</u></b>	<b><u>Fund. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
101	General Fund	\$1,714,043	\$1,764,043

**General Fund Expenditures:**

<b><u>Dept. #</u></b>	<b><u>Dept. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
967	City Services	\$479,246	\$529,246

**BE IT,** the same is hereby adopted, and the amount therein provided as recommended; appropriations are hereby appropriated according to the departmental totals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** to amend the following fund appropriations:

<b><u>Fund. #</u></b>	<b><u>Fund. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
208	Parks & Recreation Fund	\$146,482	\$156,485
211	Parks Improvement Fund	\$13,435	\$63,435

Roll call vote:

Yes: Haskins, Mehigh, Spring, Johnson.

No: Hall, Jessen.

Motion CARRIED

**CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF COUNCILPERSON CHUCK SPRING:** Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to accept the resignation of Councilperson Chuck Spring with deep regret.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Johnson, Haskins, Mehigh, Hall, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

**CALL TO AUDIENCE:** Judy Horton stated she was pleased to see this happen tonight. She asked Ms. Lawson how much she donated to the playscape and the Krib's house. Ms. Lawson advised \$10,000. Ms. Horton advised she would like to make the first \$10,000 donation.

Melody Kretzechmer advised she was born and raised in Corunna and moved to Kentucky 12 years ago. She spoke to a childhood friend a few days ago and found out what was going on so here I am.

Don Olmsted thanked the council for their consideration. He knows there are several phases that the building has to go through and some of the things that have been brought up are on

that list. He hopes the concept will be determined by the next council meeting. He advised the committee will try to make the council proud.

Mary Dumond stated the Fourth of July was started 25 years ago and it was made up of volunteers.

Bus Spaniola gave the city council a personal heartfelt thank you. He advised it is deeply appreciated and everyone understands the dilemma the council faced and he appreciates the other perspective. No one holds a grudge towards anyone and the council will not be sorry with their decision.

Ms. Lawson stated she felt Councilperson Jessen should be given a round of applause for holding onto what he believes in because she worked him very hard. Mr. Sawyer advised he saved the city \$50,000.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Mr. Sawyer advised the city council now has a vacancy and the city

has already received two letters of interest for the vacant seat. The city council has to appoint someone at the next council meeting because the vacancy is more than 60 days from the next election. He further advised whoever is appointed will have to run in the November election even though Councilperson Spring's position was not up for election. He suggested receiving letters of interest at city hall no later than July 15, which will allow him to put all of the letters of interest in the council packet for the next council meeting. Councilperson Jessen asked if something would be put in the newspaper. Mr. Sawyer advised yes and the person will have to be a qualified voter. He further advised nominating petitions for anyone interested in running the November election have to be filed by August 11.

Councilperson Spring advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Jessen advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Mehig advised he had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Johnson explained to Councilpersons Jessen and Hall that she listened to the people tonight. The city did it before so she went with her heart. The park on Saturday was beautiful and the float was amazing. Everyone did a great job and the fireworks were spectacular. She wished the committee good luck.

Councilperson Haskins advised it has been a real privilege working with Councilperson Spring. This has been a new experience for him and did not know what to expect with local politics. Everyone has high integrity and even though there are disagreements, everything that is said is respected. What is being done with the community center is phenomenal and this will set off new memories for the next generation in the community.

Councilperson Hall advised it has been a pleasure working with Councilperson Spring and wished him good luck on his new job.

Wayne LeDuc, 150 S. Norton Street, asked if the committee was a formal committee and if there would be a contract written up because \$50,000 is only going to be a start. It will take at least a half a million dollars. He asked if this was a legal binding committee. Mayor Kerridge advised Mr. LeDuc that he was speaking out of turn because this was the council's turn to speak.

Mayor Kerridge thanked Councilperson Spring and advised it has been a pleasure working with him. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He encouraged everyone to keep up the positive attitude.

ADJOURN: Spring moved, Jessen seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hall, Jessen, Haskins, Spring, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:30 p.m.

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Chuck Kerridge, Mayor

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Nichole L. Cowdrey, City Clerk/Treasurer