

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2009

Present: Kerridge, Mehig, Jessen, Johnson, Haskins, Hall.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Bob Buschman; Diane Johnson; Bob Morehouse; Helen Granger, The Independent; Gary Granger; Judy Horton; Mary Dumond; Officer Nick Chiros, Police Department; Brian & Shelly White; Angie Fernetto; Brian Berry; Shane Perdue; Harold Buck Kuisel; 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: Johnson moved, Hall seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated July 6, 2009 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

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

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to approve the vendor disbursements dated July 10, 2009 as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Harold Buck Kuisel from Bath Township introduced himself and advised he

is a candidate for the 85th District House of Representatives seat. He advised jobs need to be brought back to Michigan because people are leaving in droves. The theme of his campaign until August 3, 2010 is "put money back in our pockets and bring business back into Michigan." He further advised he wants to phase out the income tax over a three to five year time period, repeal the business tax, cut property taxes down to a flat rate of 1.85 percent per state equalized value for most citizens but reduce it to 1.65 percent for senior citizens, the handicapped and the disabled, reduce the rate to 1.25 percent for the elderly and disabled

American veterans because he wants to keep these people in their homes. He is a proponent of fair tax and encouraged council and the audience to go to his website for more information. He also advised he is hosting a fair tax seminar on August 25 at the RESD in Corunna.

Bob Morehouse, 542 Converse Street, stated evidently people cannot read the road closed signs or they think it does not apply to them. People are driving 35 to 40 mph down Converse Street to bypass Corunna Avenue. His wife works at Memorial Healthcare in Owosso and it takes him an extra 1.2 miles to take her to work. He has seen the local, state, and county police follow people but do nothing about it. He knows they have stopped a few people but this is a bad situation. He further stated it is a waste of tax dollars to have those signs and barrels there because people still drive down the road.

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF CITY DEBT OBLIGATIONS AND CASH/INVESTMENT

ACCOUNTS: Mr. Sawyer reviewed the city debt obligations and cash/investments analysis he prepared. He advised over the last nine years, there has been a 29 percent reduction in city debt obligations. He further advised the city has seen a 30 percent reduction in revenues over the last four years.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF RICK HOLZHEUER TO THE YOUTH SPORTS &

RECREATION COMMISSION: Johnson moved, Hall seconded to appoint Rick Holzheuer to the Youth Sports & Recreation Commission serving at the pleasure of the council for an indefinite term.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER NO. 223, NO PARKING EAST SIDE OF NORTON STREET FROM CONVERSE TO CORUNNA AVENUE:

Mr. Sawyer advised there is no current traffic control order for this location. The two residents in the area have requested that no parking should start at McArthur Street instead of Converse Street. Mr. Crawford has no issue in changing the traffic control order from no parking east side of Norton Street from Converse to Corunna Avenue to no parking east side of Norton Street from McArthur Street to Corunna Avenue. Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to approve Traffic Control Order No. 223, No Parking East Side of Norton Street from McArthur Street to Corunna Avenue.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO VACANT WARD 1 COUNCIL SEAT:

Jessen moved, Hall seconded to appoint Steve Corey to the vacant Ward 1 council seat until November. Councilperson Haskins stated there are some applicants at the meeting and he would like to know if any of the applicants would be willing to take the position and would consider running in November. Councilperson Johnson advised there is a motion on the table so she did not think there could be this type of discussion. Councilperson Jessen withdrew his

motion and Councilperson Hall withdrew her support. Councilperson Haskins asked the applicants if they intended to run in November. Bob Buschman introduced himself and advised he plans on running in November. Brian White introduced himself and advised he plans on running in November. Gary Granger introduced himself and advised he plans on running in November. Mr. Sawyer advised he received an email from Mr. Reichert Sunday evening advising he was on a family vacation and would not be able to attend the meeting tonight. Councilperson Jessen stated he would like to explain his reasoning behind the motion that he made. Usually there are no applicants for a vacant position but the city has received six. He thought it would be unfair to the other applicants if council picks one of them. Mr. Corey is probably the most qualified applicant right now and he has stated he is not interested in running in November, which will give all of the applicants who intend to run in November a fair shot. Generally, an incumbant does win so he does not want to give an advantage to anybody. Councilperson Jessen asked the applicants if this seemed fair to them and they agreed. Jessen moved, Hall seconded to appoint Steve Corey to the vacant Ward 1 council seat until November.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Mayor Kerridge clarified that there will be two council seats open in ward one; a two year and a four year term. Mr. Sawyer advised those running in November will need to select if they are running for the two year term or the four year term. Councilperson Johnson asked when petitions have to be in. Mr. Sawyer advised August 11 at 4:00 p.m. Someone in the audience asked how many signatures are needed. Nichole Cowdrey advised at least 15 but not more than 30.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Bob Buschman, 571 W. Corunna Avenue, stated one of the construction workers was almost hit today because of someone driving down Corunna Avenue. Gary Granger, 419 W. Corunna Avenue, stated there were over 90 cars that ran through the stop sign on Norton Street at Corunna Avenue. People do not stop at the intersection anymore; they do a rolling stop. Mary Dumond stated she can sit on her porch and watch people drive through the intersection. She advised the police department have been sitting in the area, which has slowed the traffic down. Mr. Granger suggested having a police car sit there at peak times because someone is going to get hurt. Ms. Lawson advised she has answered several phone calls from people who have received a ticket and the mentality is just insane. Mr. Granger advised he has heard people say that the road closed signs are not for Corunna residents; they are for the other people.

Brian Berry commended the city council and the Fourth of July committee for another wonderful event that took place in the city. He thanked all of the volunteers and the staff for doing a wonderful job.

Bob Morehouse stated he does not understand why the city council asked for applicants to fill the position when they ignored them and made a selection on their own. He did not see Mr. Corey here tonight but three of the interested applicants were here and they were ignored.

Brian Berry reminded council that the Train Festival was coming to the area this weekend and advised 20,000 to 40,000 people are expected to be in the area.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Hall advised she had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Haskins advised Mr. Morehouse that Mr. Corey did apply for the vacant council seat by submitting a letter. Councilperson Haskins encouraged the applicants to run in November because it is an enjoyable experience.

Councilperson Johnson advised the softball game was held Friday night and even though the city lost, it was a lot of fun.

Councilperson Jessen advised the softball game was fun. The good news is the city came in third place and not fourth place.

Councilperson Mehig advised he had nothing to discuss.

ADJOURN: Jessen moved, Johnson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

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

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:45 p.m.

Chuck Kerridge, Mayor

Nichole L. Cowdrey, City Clerk/Treasurer