

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, April 5, 2010

Present: Kerridge, Jessen, Reichert, Johnson, Haskins, Sarrazin.

Absent: Mehig (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Ian Granger; Gary Granger; Helen Granger, The Independent; Julie Mattera, The Argus Press; Donna Kerridge; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; Dennis Rainwater; Gary Schooley; Bus & Carol Spaniola; Janine Kingsbury; Homer Bennett; and other concerned citizens.

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

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Reichert seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated March 15, 2010 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Reichert, Johnson, Haskins, Sarrazin.

No: None.

Abstain: Jessen

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Item No. 3A) Consider Resignation of Joseph DeCaire From the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Reichert, Johnson, Haskins, Sarrazin, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Johnson moved, Reichert seconded to approve the vendor disbursements dated March 19, 2010 and April 1, 2010 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Haskins, Sarrazin, Jessen, Reichert.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Homer Bennett, 430 Pine Street, stated his daughter left the garage door open on Friday and Saturday and four inches of leaves that came from the cemetery were in his garage. He asked what the city is going to do about the leaves in the cemetery because they are blowing up on his porch and into his garage. He asked if the leaves were going to be mulched or raked. He questioned if there is going to be a spring cleanup in the cemetery this year. He thought the Hugh McCurdy monument area of the cemetery should be kept clean. Mr. Crawford advised there has been discussion about having a spring cleanup but nothing

has been scheduled. The city does have a mower that mulches, but it is in the process of getting it ready for service. Mr. Bennett stated mulching the leaves will keep them from blowing into the neighborhood yards. He suggested picking a date and cleaning it up.

Dennis Rainwater introduced himself and advised he is a republican candidate for state representative. He lives in Durand and has lived in Shiawassee County for 45 years. He graduated from Michigan State with an engineering degree. He further advised the state needs to turn itself around. The state needs to reduce regulations and taxes. It needs to do what it can to attract new businesses. Mr. Rainwater also advised his business experience gives him an advantage over the other candidates.

CHECK PRESENTATION – COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE COMMUNITY CENTER: The Committee to Save the Community Center presented Mayor Kerridge with a check in the amount of \$23,900 from their fundraising efforts and advised they reached their \$50,000 commitment in nine months. Bus Spaniola presented Mayor Kerridge with a check in the amount of \$10,000 on behalf of the Corunna Downtown Development Authority.

CONSIDER EXCUSAL OF COUNCILPERSON DON MEHIGH FROM THE APRIL 5, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO ILLNESS: Johnson moved, Sarrazin seconded to excuse Councilperson Don Mehig from the April 5, 2010 council meeting due to illness.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Haskins, Sarrazin, Jessen, Reichert, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DAM DISCUSSION: Mr. Sawyer stated the city has been working with the DNRE on their immediate concerns regarding the condition of the dam and their drawdown order. Gary Croskey has been reviewing the city's files and has been to the state to go through their records. The DNRE has honored the city's FOIA request, and it will cost \$130 to pick up the information. He further stated he hopes to meet with the DNRE sometime this week or early next week. Mr. Croskey is preparing a bullet list for the city as far as some talking points. Mr. Sawyer advised the city is trying to determine what it needs to do and the timeframe that something needs to be done in. He knows Councilperson Sarrazin has expressed an interest in participating in the process and asked if he would be interested in going to Lansing. Councilperson Sarrazin advised yes. Mr. Sawyer asked if anyone else on the council was interested in going. Councilpersons Reichert and Haskins advised they were interested. Mr. Sawyer stated the second issue is what the city sees doing with the dam long term. He advised the dam was constructed in 1840 as a saw mill dam. The dam today was rebuilt in 1857 a year before the city became incorporated as a village. The dam operated until the 1950's when the saw mill burnt. The 1974 DNR letter was written five years before the city took possession of the dam, which was in 1979. He further stated the initial intent of the council was to get an energy grant for hydro power electricity. In 1980, the city received a grant to do a feasibility study on hydro power electricity, but it did not pass as a viable project. Since the dam did not pass the feasibility study, there was a restriction in the grant that the city was not allowed to do anything with the dam for 10 years so nothing was done to it. Once the 10 years passed, it became a habit to ignore the dam. He does not think the dam is in any worse shape than it was in 1980. Mr. Sawyer advised there is no money available

for dam construction. There is some grant assistance when it comes to fish passage type of issues. He reviewed the following eight options the city has available: Step & Pool, which consists of removing the spillway and ½ of the existing dam; Remove the dam; Repair existing dam; Build a new dam; Build a roller compacted concrete dam, which consists of removing the spillway and constructing a new dam with or without a spillway made of roller compacted concrete directly in front of the existing dam; Build a Weir Rapids, which consists of removing the spillway and existing ½ top of the dam and creating a rapids ½ above and ½ below the site of the existing dam; Build a hybrid dam/rapids, which consists of removing the spillway and constructing a new spillway, step rapids and dam either with roller compacted concrete or retaining a portion of the original structure; and breach a hole in the dam. He further advised the big issue is money and how important it is to maintain the current dam height. He questioned whether the public would consider a new millage for dam repairs or would allow the current city improvement millage to allow funds to be used for dam repairs. He asked council if the dam is important enough to maintain and if they would be willing to go to the public with a millage proposal. He also asked if council would be willing to use money from the general fund and council advised no. Councilperson Haskins asked if the engineer has had a chance to interpret what the state wants. Mr. Sawyer advised the DNRE has the ability to require the city to do repairs to the structure. He further advised the city has owned the dam for 31 years and the official position has been to maintain the reservoir and keep things the way it is, but at the same time, the city recognizes the dam could fail and convert itself into rapids. If the long term vision is to allow the dam to fail and lose the reservoir then he would recommend breaching the dam and make it happen without spending a dime. Councilperson Haskins advised he feels the city should keep the dam, but it will be hard to do with the current economy. The council has to think about the people who will be here after it is gone and the dam is an important part of the community and is a part of the city's history. He recommended asking the residents for millage to pay for dam repairs before taking money out of the general fund. Councilperson Jessen stated the city has already done that. People do not want to lose the dam but nobody wants to pay for it. Councilperson Sarrazin stated the dam has been allowed to sit because nobody thought it would fail. Now, the DNRE has made its move and wants the city to breach or repair the dam. It is going to cost money and there is no money available unless the city does something to make fish passage easier. He questioned whether the citizens in the community are willing to give up the dam for a \$100,000 trade off. The Facebook page has been up for a couple of months and the majority of people want to keep the dam. He advised there are boats, kayaks and canoes on the river every single day. It is the only waterway in Shiawassee County that a motor boat can be put in. If the city has to spend money, then it should keep the impoundment and move forward in developing and executing a plan. Fish should be able to pass where God intended them to go and people should be able to enjoy the impoundment as well. In discussions with Gary Croskey, the dam will have to be repaired or removed and 2010 will be the year the city council will have to do something. Mr. Sawyer stated he does not want to see the city invest money in a lost cause. The city is going to have to decide what it wants to do and do it. He asked if anyone was in favor of putting a new millage on the ballot for dam improvements. He also suggested asking the voters to allow the city improvement millage to be restructured to allow the money to be used for dam improvements. Councilperson Sarrazin stated he thought the citizens would be able to digest it easier. Councilperson Haskins asked Mr. Sawyer if he would recommend doing it based on the budget. Mr. Sawyer advised the city improvement millage expires in six years which hurts the city because it cannot make plans to

do any significant projects because the city can not bond beyond the millage authorization. He is not sure the millage would be renewed by the voters when it expires in six years. He doubts the DNRE will give the city six years to do something with the dam. Ms. Lawson stated the fishery division has money available that they give out at their discretion. The best chance to get money from the fishery division is to go along with the DNRE by coming up with a solution to the problem that fits everybody's needs. She thought the city's best chance to get money is to work directly with the fishery division. Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to appoint Councilpersons Mike Sarrazin, Brad Reichert and Doug Haskins to work with Joe Sawyer, Tim Crawford, and Gary Croskey on bringing a dam proposal to the city council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sarrazin, Jessen, Reichert, Johnson, Haskins.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF BOB VOLEK FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD: Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to accept the resignation of Bob Volek from the Cemetery Board with thanks and regret.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Johnson, Reichert, Sarrazin, Haskins.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF JOSEPH DECAIRE FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION: Johnson moved, Jessen seconded to accept the resignation of Joseph DeCaire from the Parks and Recreation Commission effective March 1, 2010 with regret.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Reichert, Jessen, Sarrazin, Haskins, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A USED TS GATOR BY THE CORUNNA SOFTBALL

COMMISSION: Mr. Sawyer advised the equipment will be used to groom the softball fields. He is proposing to split the purchase cost three ways between the softball commission, youth baseball/softball and the city, which can use it in the park and cemetery. The maintenance costs will also be split three ways. Jessen moved, Haskins seconded to approve the purchase of a used TS Gator with the cost to be split three ways.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Reichert, Jessen, Haskins, Sarrazin.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 19, 2010 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 10-03, AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 42 FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, ARTICLE IV. COST RECOVERY, SECTIONS 42-121 DEFINITIONS, 42-122 FAILURE TO REMOVE AND CLEANUP AND 42-126 EXEMPTIONS: Johnson moved, Haskins seconded to set a public hearing for April 19, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. to consider Ordinance No. 10-

03, Amendments to Chapter 42 Fire Prevention and Protection, Article IV. Cost Recovery, Sections 42-121 Definitions, 42-122 Failure to Remove and Cleanup and 42-126 Exemptions.  
Roll call vote:

Yes: Haskins, Jessen, Sarrazin, Johnson, Reichert.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 19, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M. TO CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 10-04, AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 42 FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, ARTICLE II. FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE FEES, SECTIONS 42-37 THROUGH 42-41:

Sarrazin moved, Johnson seconded to set a public hearing for April 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. to consider Ordinance No. 10-04, Amendments to Chapter 42 Fire Prevention and Protections, Article II. Fire Protection Service Fees, Sections 42-37 through 42-41.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sarrazin, Jessen, Johnson, Reichert, Haskins.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 040510-01, LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BODY RESOLUTION FOR SPECIAL LICENSES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS: Sarrazin moved, Jessen

seconded to approve the following resolution:

Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth  
**Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC)**  
7150 Harris Drive – P.O. Box 30005 – Lansing, MI 48909-7505  
(517) 322-1326 or (517) 322-6362

**RESOLUTION NO. 040510-01**  
LOCAL LEGISLATIVE BODY RESOLUTION FOR  
SPECIAL LICENSES ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ONLY  
(Authorized by MCL 436-1519)

At a regular meeting of the Corunna City Council called to order by Mayor Charles Kerridge on April 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. the following resolution was offered.

Moved by Councilperson Sarrazin and supported by Councilperson Jessen that the request from Shiawassee Armory – 675 W. Corunna Avenue, Corunna MI 48817 be considered for approval.

	Approval	Disapproval
Yeas:	All	Yeas:
Nays:	None	Nays:
Absent:	One	Absent:

It is the consensus of this legislative body that the application be recommended for issuance.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Reichert, Sarrazin, Haskins, Johnson, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF IAN GRANGER TO THE CORUNNA PARKS AND

RECREATION COMMISSION: Johnson moved, Reichert seconded to appoint Ian Granger to the Corunna Parks and Recreation Commission serving at the pleasure of the council for an indefinite term.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Haskins, Jessen, Sarrazin, Reichert.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM YOUTH SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO

EXPAND BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS: Mr. Sawyer explained the proposed land is located between Mitchell Field and the cemetery and it is the desired location for baseball/softball field expansion. The little league program is struggling with having enough playing fields. The property is currently designated as future cemetery expansion land, but there is a note in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that states additional land for cemetery expansion needs to be found so this area can be used as a playing field. The Youth Sports & Recreation Commission would like permission to develop ball fields on this area without finding replacement cemetery expansion land. The city has 1,700 cemetery lots available for sale, which is enough for 30 to 40 years. He further explained he informed the commission that nothing substantial should be built on the property because a future city council could decide that they want to expand the cemetery there. Councilperson Haskins asked if night lighting would be installed on the new fields. Mr. Sawyer advised the airport engineer would have to review it before they are installed. Councilperson Reichert asked if the new fields would be built for the coming season. Mr. Sawyer advised the priority is to develop two t-ball fields. It is the commission's intent to go after grants but they want to make sure they have a location before going after them. Jessen moved, Sarrazin seconded to approve the use of the land as per the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the understanding that any such development is at the risk of future council action to expand cemetery property into that field.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Haskins, Sarrazin, Johnson, Reichert, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER AFSCME LOCAL 1059 CONTRACT EXTENSION: Mr. Sawyer advised the contract originally expired on June 30, 2009 and a one year extension was agreed upon by the employer and union at that time, which extended the contract through June 30, 2010. The union has proposed extending the contract with the existing terms and conditions for one additional year. Councilperson Jessen asked why. Councilperson Haskins asked if the union rep is recommending it. Mr. Sawyer advised the union clearly understands that now is not the time to make demands given the economy. They recognize if negotiations are opened they have nothing to gain and everything to lose, which he tends to agree with. Councilperson Jessen stated he also agreed but as a council that is what it is supposed to do. Everybody else has given something up and for them to skate through is something he does not agree with. They can put off the contract for as long as they want, but eventually, they are going to have to give up something because everybody else has. Mr. Sawyer asked what they would be

giving up. Councilperson Jessen advised that would be in negotiations. Mr. Sawyer asked if it be council's desire to take their health care and retirement benefits and drag them below the non-represented employees and the police employees. Councilperson Jessen stated he could not give specifics because that would be in negotiations. Mr. Sawyer stated he would suggest that if you do that then you will start talking about the department heads and non-reps. Councilperson Jessen stated the department heads took a pay hit. Mr. Sawyer stated he is talking about benefits first. If you are going to adjust benefits then you start with the non-reps. The non-reps took a reduction in pay, but the police department got a three percent increase last year and will get another three percent increase again this year. Councilperson Jessen stated that was before everything started. Mr. Sawyer stated that was before Wall Street went belly up. Tim Crawford advised the department of public works employees took a pay freeze last year and they make the same they did the year before. Councilperson Jessen stated he fully understands their desire not to want to negotiate, but he thought it was the council's job to negotiate. Councilperson Haskins stated he respectfully disagreed with Councilperson Jessen. If this is something that the union representative has suggested then it is probably in their best interest. Councilperson Jessen stated why the union representative would not suggest that they not do anything right now. Councilperson Haskins stated they would probably have to negotiate down. Councilperson Jessen stated right so no wonder they want to just let it go as is because they know they are going to lose something. Councilperson Haskins asked if both sides have agreed to the extension. Mr. Sawyer advised no that is why it was before council. From management's prospective, if the labor committee wants to start negotiations then that is something they can do. He would have a hard time in this environment trying to come to a four or five year contract. He would rather deal with a pay freeze for one year and still retain the ability to cancel their health insurance a year from now because the city may be forced to do that. He felt the extension works to management's side because the union has already signed it. Councilperson Sarrazin stated the contract extension does not grant raises because it is a pay freeze. The department of public works is agreeing to hold their wages at the 2008 level because they took a pay freeze last year so they are working on three year old pay. Mr. Sawyer advised Councilperson Jessen is referring to the non-reps who took a three percent pay reduction. Councilperson Sarrazin stated he agreed with Councilperson Jessen that everyone should share the pain if everyone is sharing the pain through a pay freeze and if the health benefits are on an even keel with everyone else. Mr. Sawyer stated the police increase is for only two employees because the part-time employees have been on a pay freeze status. Councilperson Sarrazin stated as long as the council is not authorizing additional monies under some hidden percentage then he is okay with extending the contract. Councilperson Jessen asked when the contract would normally expire. Mr. Sawyer advised the original five year agreement expired June 30, 2009 and it was extended to June 30, 2010. Right now, the city is under the first one year extension that was granted. The proposed contract extension before council would extend the contract through June 30, 2011. Councilperson Jessen stated he does not understand why the contract is being extended when council knows it has to be negotiated. Mr. Sawyer stated he has yet to hear management ever ask to negotiate a contract. Typically, the union initiates negotiations unless there is a desire or plan by the council to do further reductions. If that is the case, he would suggest that the labor committee have a meeting. Councilperson Haskins asked if the management rep and union rep want to extend the agreement. Mr. Sawyer stated he is agreeable to it if that is what council wants to do and advised he does not have a vote in the matter. The council is the employer. Councilperson Haskins advised he understood that but thought it was fair for him

to ask. Mr. Sawyer stated the majority of contracts in other cities in the nation are handled by the manager and the union, but that is not the way it works here. The contract is between the city council and the union. Councilperson Johnson stated she serves on the labor committee and has served on it for the majority of her term and the department of public works is one department that does not ask for a lot. They do a good job at what they do. They went with a pay freeze so she thought the council should give them a one year extension. Councilperson Jessen stated he felt the labor committee should get together to at least review the contract to see what has been done with other contracts. It is going to stay as it is until the council makes a decision and suggested that the labor committee meet before the next council meeting. Councilperson Sarrazin stated since this is his first term back, he would like to review it, but he is not saying that he is going to make any changes. Councilperson Jessen asked Councilperson Johnson if she agreed. Councilperson Johnson advised no she did not agree because she is happy with it the way it is now. If the other two members want to meet, then she has to do it. Councilperson Sarrazin stated no one is ganging up on her, but he would like to review it and would go in with open eyes. He agreed with Councilperson Jessen that it is the status quo until someone makes a decision. Councilperson Sarrazin further stated the committee is not going to meet to go into negotiations; it is meeting to review the contract. Councilperson Jessen stated the committee will decide if it should bring back to the council. Mr. Crawford stated he felt the union was doing it because they know the city's financial situation and would wait to negotiate at that time. Merilee Lawson stated the department of public works had been very generous with Mr. Sawyer and her by allowing many volunteers to do the work that they were slated to do. They recognize more and more volunteers are stepping up to the plate to do their work and the union has been very generous in allowing it. Councilperson Jessen stated he is sure the labor committee will take that into consideration. Mr. Sawyer stated the union has a timeline to commence negotiations, but he is not sure what the timeline is. Councilperson Jessen stated he is sure the labor committee can get together before the next council meeting and he does not think the meeting will take very long. Councilperson Sarrazin stated he would like to have a copy of the contract a week ahead of time to give him time to review it. Mr. Sawyer asked council if they wanted to table the item until the next council meeting. Council agreed. Councilperson Sarrazin asked if the timing would mess anything up. Mr. Sawyer stated not unless the union withdraws their proposal. Councilperson Sarrazin stated this is not a witch hunt and his intent is to familiarize himself with the contract. He recognizes the department of public works has by going through a wage freeze conceded four percent of their wages over the past two years. The council owes it to the taxpayers to look at the contract and he is not looking at attacking anybody. Councilperson Jessen stated that was not his intent either. Johnson moved, Haskins seconded to table the AFSME Local 1059 contract extension until the next council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sarrazin, Reichert, Haskins, Johnson, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Helen Granger advised her son pulled a green picnic table and 120 feet of the sled hill netting out of the river while retrieving golf discs from the river. Councilperson Jessen asked if it would be reusable. Ms. Horton advised it looks like it is in good condition.

Judy Horton stated the Easter egg hunt and breakfast with the bunny went well. The Easter bunny told her it was the best controlled Easter egg hunt the city has ever had because parents stayed in the area they were supposed to be in. The pancake breakfast had a big turn out and the food bank collected a lot of food. She further stated flower vouchers that benefit the historical village are available at city hall and they have to be purchased before the end of April.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION DISCUSSION: Johnson moved, Sarrazin seconded to leave regular session to go into executive session for the purpose of land acquisition discussion and allow Merilee Lawson and Tim Crawford to stay for the executive session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Sarrazin, Johnson, Reichert, Haskins.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:55 p.m.

Jessen left at 9:05 p.m. to go to work. No action was taken during executive session. Johnson moved, Sarrazin seconded to leave executive session and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Reichert, Sarrazin, Haskins.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:25 p.m.

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

Councilperson Haskins advised the civil air patrol was dispatched to find a missing plane. There were two search planes flying around the Owosso area trying to locate the plane which was eventually found.

Councilperson Johnson advised she had nothing to discuss.

Councilperson Sarrazin advised he had nothing to discuss.

Mayor Kerridge advised he had fun at the community center for the Easter activities. It was great to see the turn out.

ADJOURN: Johnson moved, Sarrazin seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sarrazin, Johnson, Reichert, Haskins.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:28 p.m.

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Charles Kerridge, Mayor

Linda M. LeCureux, Deputy Clerk