**CITY OF LEXINGTON**

**WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 19, 2017**

**Immediately following Council meeting**

**City Hall**

**1. Call to Order:** Mayor Kurth

**2. Roll Call:** DeVries – Hughes – Harris – Murphy

***Mayor Kurth called to order the workshop for January 19, 2017 at 7:04 p.m. Councilmember’s present: Devries, Harris, Hughes, and Murphy. Also Present: Bill Petracek, City Administrator; Chris Galiov, Finance Director; Kurt Glaser, City Attorney; Gary Grote, Fire Chief; Quad Press Reporter***

**3. Discussion Items:**

1. Discuss Local Board of Appeal on Equality Training and Certification

***Petracek explained that the City of Lexington does not have any of our elected officials trained and certified on the Local Board of Appeal process. He added that if we don’t have at least one person trained by the first week in February, the City of Lexington would lose their authority to hold the Local Board of Appeals hearing on property tax assessments for the citizens of Lexington; consequently, the process would revert to Anoka County Board of Appeals. Discussion ensued. Petracek stated he would email the information regarding the training to interested Councilmember’s.***

1. Discuss firefighter salary increase

***Gary Grote, Fire Chief, explained to the Council that his firefighters haven’t had a wage adjustment since 2013. He added that he wants to be able to stay competitive with surrounding fire department’s on-call wages, as he has to compete with those area departments to recruit qualified candidates. Discussion ensued. Grote asked the Council to approve a 15% increase. Petracek asked if the increase would be on the base wage or for all wages. Discussion ensued.***

***Petracek stated they would have the recalculated wages with a 15% increase on the next Council agenda for approval.***

1. Discuss the development of the 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

***Petracek discussed with the Council about completing a 2016 CAFR. He stated that it is an added cost to the City and according to Abdo, Eick, & Meyer, most small communities of our size don’t do an annual CAFR. He further explained that a CAFR is a way of showing your community that you are reporting your financials correctly, but added that the annual audit is more than sufficient for reporting our financial information. Discussion ensued. The consensus of the Council was to not do a 2016 CAFR.***

1. Discuss Rain Gardens on Oak Lane – **Mayor Kurth**

***This item was tabled due to the city engineer’s inability to attend the meeting for discussion.***

1. Discuss relaxing the Happy Hour regulations on liquor license holders – **Mayor Kurth**

***Mayor Kurth explained 7 years ago, the City of Lexington placed a ban on liquor license holder’s prohibiting “Happy Hour.” He added that since all of our liquor establishments have changed ownership since the restrictions were adopted, he believes the City should give the new owner’s the opportunity to operate their establishment without the “Happy Hour” restrictions. Discussion ensued.***

***Attorney Glaser explained that when the restrictions on liquor licensed establishments went into place, the City of Lexington’s DWI’s per capita were the highest in the State of Minnesota. Glaser added that he is optimistic that Mike Mcmanus, the new Bamboo Betty’s owner, will do a better job of managing the bar’s liquor sales and intoxicated patrons. Discussion ensued.***

***Mayor Kurth believes we could help them out by relaxing the restrictions. Glaser provided an overview of the current liquor licensing rules regarding Happy Hour and Two-for-one drink specials.***

***The Council discussed revisions to the liquor licensing rules. Glaser recommended striking Subd. 7- Promotions and Subd. 8 Unlawful Activities. Councilmember Hughes explained that he wanted a timeframe to remain in place for Happy Hour. Discussion ensued.***

***Petracek stated that Attorney Glaser will revise the regulations based on the evening’s discussions and the ordinance will be placed on the next Council meeting for their consideration. He asked the Council if we should notify the current liquor license holder’s of the proposed regulations. The consensus of the Council was to provide written notification to the liquor license holder’s of the proposed changes and when the changes would be considered by the Council. Petracek stated he would send out a letter.***

**4. Staff Input**

**No staff input**

**5. Council Input**

**No Council Input**

**6. Adjourn**

***Councilmember Harris made a motion to adjourn the January 19, 2017 Council Workshop at 8:47 p.m. Councilmember Devries seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.***