CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2023

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

Austin Lee Council President, Sharlyn Thompson

Ron Knavel City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Cynthia Carr City Code/animal Control, Penny Miller

Danny Ware Jr Police Chief, Joe Stotler

Fire Chief, Marc Waggoner

**Call to order**

Sharlyn Thompson, council president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance with 4 members present. Mayor, Ella Mae Crowell was absent.

**Approval of Agenda**

Sharlyn Thompson requested the water tower be added under unfinished business. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to approve the minutes as written from the regular meeting on December 14, 2022 and the special meetings held December 12, 2022 and December 20, 2022. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

No business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2023 GAAP Waiver – Cynthia Carr made the motion to approve the 2023 GAAP waiver. Danny Ware Jr. seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
2. Outside city limit water users – Sharlyn Thompson shared 2 options: Option #1 install a master meter at all 4 corners. Option #2 add a $30.00 charge on each meter. $20.00 of that increase will go into a separate account for maintenance and the other will go into an account to fund our water tower. She suggested the council set a cap of $30,000.00 to $40,000.00 and each year after that, any monies over that cap mark will be refunded back to the user. Ron Knavel suggested the rural water districts pay more than the $30.00 increase. After discussion, the council would like to know how many users are on the water district lines and the gallons sold to them and bring that information to a scheduled special meeting January 17, 2023 at 5:30pm.
3. BCBS Renewal – Austin Lee made the motion to accept the BCBS renewal. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Facilities – Austin Lee expressed concerns on the floors at city hall, stating a lot of tiles are lifting and loose, wondering if there was any loans or grants available for something like this.. Michelle Altis suggested we include the floors on our next health & wellness grant this fall.
5. Damage at city hall – Sharlyn Thompson stated, we received a bid in March of 2022 from Danny Ware Jr and would like to know if there will be an increase in pricing because of material prices. Danny Ware Jr stated he will honor the bid he submitted in March. Cynthia Carr asked for a time frame for completion. Danny Ware Jr stated, if the weather cooperates, I should be able to get to it within the next month. Austin Lee made the motion to wait until March 1, 2023 to decide. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 3-0, Danny Ware Jr abstained from voting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Hay Permit with stipulations – Tabled until February.
2. Park Cameras – Austin Lee made the motion to spend no more than $500.00 on cameras for the park. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 3-1 with Cynthia Carr opposing.
3. Sewer Ordinance – Michelle shared a sewer ordinance reflecting the increase of the sewer rates. Cynthia Carr stated the commercial users should read $43.00 and don’t see any reason to have an industrial charge in there. Austin Lee stated all commercial business should be paying the same amount. Michelle stated she will get that fixed. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to continue putting $8.00 in the lagoon fund, $4.00 to the sewer working fund, $4.00 to the sewer upgrade fund and the $.006 over the 1,000-gallon mark be kept in the working fund. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Austin Lee made the motion to publish the ordinance as presented. No one second the motion, motion failed. Savannah Flory requested an extension on publishing the ordinance so that she can get a separate water meter for watering plants. Ron Knavel made the motion to make the ordinance effective March 1, 2023 with the wording corrected. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Absent from meeting
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Absent from meeting
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and report. He asked permission to shred documents that were 10 years old, council suggested he take them to Tri-Valley. Joe also mentioned issues he is having with lighting in his office, Cynthia Carr suggested getting a bid on the lights.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control – Shared her monthly reports. Penny stated there is a new billboard going up on highway 54 and 2 new homes coming in to town. Cynthia Carr asked about the placement of the billboard and size. Penny stated it was being placed on Ray Maloney’s property and the size is 8X20. Penny stated that Fred had suggested we reach out to Kenny Rose about the property he owns at 508 S. Harrison, to see if he would deed it to the city if we pay the back taxes of $1,119.00 and the utility bill of $803.72. Penny stated Fred suggested we would have more control over the property, she asked the council to think about it. Cynthia Carr asked how things were going with the CCTV project. Penny stated it’s going pretty well, on the northside of highway 54 we found an area where a lot of ground water is getting into our sewer system but other than that our lines are looking pretty good. Cynthia Carr expressed concerns about how the company are treating people’s properties and Penny stated that has been addressed.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the meeting minutes: The LaHarpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present was; Dennis Sidebottom, Josh Sparks, Ronald Splector, Matthew Waggoner, Marc Waggoner Sr., Meghan Sparks, Bill Gay and Pamela Waggoner. Had meeting, took trucks out to flush two locations. Flushed one at 802 S. Washington, still half full of dirt, ditch needs dug out and then replace whistle. The one on 208 W. 9th is totally plugged on south end, Dereck will have to look at it.. Returned to the barn and adjourned the meeting. Marc stated the Allen County fire department will be doing training February 12th on a car fire. Marc stated that Humboldt has a truck they are trying to sell. The kick pump needs replaced because it kills the truck. Austin lee asked the cost for a new pump and Marc stated $10,000.00 to $15,000.00. Marc is trying to get the truck for $6,000.00 and believes it is a 90’s model. Austin Lee asked if we needed a truck, Marc stated yes, we have one truck that can’t be fixed. Marc reminded everyone it’s just an idea I am throwing out there. Humboldt was able to get a new truck through a grant. Marc shared a picture of a light weight nozzle he would like to get; the cost is $1,100.00. Cynthia Carr asked Marc to fixed the “R” on the outside of barn, Marc stated he will get it fixed.
6. Maintenance Department –The workorders were shared. Dereck Ranes turned in his monthly report on his schooling. Dereck shared pricing on 3 phasing sticks, Penny stated the phasing sticks provide safety when working on powerlines to make sure they are not live and KMEA suggested we get one. Austin Lee made the motion to buy one through KMEA and take the funds out of electric upgrade. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Nothing to report

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

**TREASURER’S REPORT –** File for audit.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Danny Ware Jr made a motion to approve bills as presented. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to adjourn. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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City ClerkMayor