CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 9, 2023

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

Austin Lee Acting Mayor, Sharlyn Thompson

Danny Ware Jr City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Cynthia Carr City Code/animal Control, Penny Miller

Ron Knavel Water Rep, Roy Caler

Police Chief, Joe Stotler

City Maintenance, Gentry Dougherty

**2024 CITY BUDGET HEARING**

Mayor Crowell opened the budget hearing and asked for any comments or questions. No comments or questions were presented. Austin Lee made the motion to accept the budget. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to close the budget hearing. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Angela Barker thanked the city for all they did after the storm damage, stating she was very impressed how everyone came together to help and had our power restored before Bronson and Iola.
2. Jeremy Filer (attending by phone) requested streets and alley on his property at 1105 S. Main be vacated. Attorney, Fred Works stated he would get the paper work gathered that was needed to do so, but should have everything ready to present to council on September 13, 2023. Fred stated we need to get a list of property owners within 200 feet of said property, need a legal description, post something in newspaper about a public hearing and recover our costs before recording the vacates.
3. Harry Lee stated he wants to build homes in La Harpe. He stated there were a couple of grants available to make these home more affordable. Harry stated he has a contractor and a grant writer but the grant needs to be made by the city or county, so I’m asking if the city would be willing to apply for this grant. Harry shared his vision would be to build 20 new homes in La Harpe totaling about $650,000.00. The grant could be used by an individual and decrease the amount of the home by $32,500.00. The grant can also be used to help someone build a home. Danny Ware Jr asked when it needed to be submitted. Harry stated, my goal is to start building next spring, my vision would be to build 4 to 5 houses a year. Fred stated we can submit a letter of intent, have the grant writer submit the documents and then the council will review then for approval. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to submit a letter of intent once the grant is submitted and approved. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Harry also commented about the tall trees in town with broken limbs hanging, stating it will be a challenge for the citizens or city to take care of them. He stated, he is offering his time to get those cleaned up if the city would provide a bucket truck and an operator, it’s not safe and it looks trashy.
4. Mike Knavel asked where the city was with the rural water users, Mayor Crowell stated we are in the process of working up something now. Mike demanded that city crews do not go pass his mater meter when reading meters. Mayor Crowell stated, we can do that if that’s what you want.
5. Corky Lynes expressed concerns about her son’s sewer charge on their water spicket, stating that used only to fill pool and water the garden. She stated, we shouldn’t have to pay a sewer charge, if that’s how it is going to be then pull the meter. Mayor Crowell stated, that’s how the council voted for the sewer charge and if you want your meter pulled, call city hall and put in a work order.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Animal Ordinance – Tabled until October.
2. Fire Ordinance – Tabled until October.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Gary McIntosh, with Your Community Foundation, shared with the Council, their organization is helping ACARF raise funds and would love to visit with some of the La Harpe citizens. He also stated that that November 28, 2023 is National Day of Giving, every pledge is matched. Gary also informed thew city and those attending that ACARF still has vouchers to get your dogs or cates spaded at no cost to you, contact ACARF for more information.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Nothing more to report.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and had no report.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control – Shared her monthly reports.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the meeting minutes: The La Harpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Matthew Waggoner, Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Bill Gay, Dennis Sidebottom, Kiefer Endicott, Gentry Dougherty & Ronald Splector. Absent was Mehan Sparks and Pamela Waggoner. La Harpe firefighters started meeting by discussing emergency protocols for severe weather, then we proceeded to take 361 unit & 359 unit and practiced staging exercises, then ended the meeting. Marc mentioned that Ray’s Metal Depot had a casting for the fie hydrant at the park that he is asking $500.00 for. Austin Lee made the motion to buy the casting from Ray’s Metal Depot. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Maintenance Department –The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Requested permission to sign the yearly contract for our utility software through Advantage Computers for $499.00. Danny Ware made the motion to accept the contract for $499.00. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. She also shared a quote from Stella Jones for 30 poles in the amount of $13,410.00, she stated she brought this up because they were approved to get 30 poles at the first of the year at $300.00 a piece but they have increased to $447.00 a pole. Austin Lee suggested we look around and check with Iola or cedar valley metal in Garnett. Cynthia Carr suggested reaching out to KMEA. Austin Lee made the motion to buy 10 poles from whomever but not to exceed $447.00 per pole. Danny Ware Jr. seconded. Motion carried 5-0.