CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2023

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

Austin Lee Mayor, Ella Mae Crowell

Danny Ware Jr City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Cynthia Carr City Attorney, Fred Works

Ron Knavel Water Rep, Roy Caler

Police Chief, Joe Stotler

Fire Chief, Marc Waggoner

**Call to order**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

Danny Ware Jr requested the smoke test be added under unfinished business. Austin Lee made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 13, 2023, and the special meetings on September 6, 2023 and September 25, 2023 as presented. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**HEARING FOR 1105 S. MAIN**

Mayor Crowell opened the hearing for 1105 S. Main. Suggestions were made; property needs to be in compliance with our city codes and an ordinance will need to be published vacating the streets and alleys, city will still have the utility right-of-way’s. There were no objections to the request, Mayor Crowell closed the hearing.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Greg Thurman presented a letter of interest in the city owned lots at 410 S. McKinley, Mayor Crowell read the letter; he would like to build a home and plans are to live in a portable home while building. Austin Lee expressed concerns of it being a camper and recommended we have a time frame of completion. Mayor Crowell stated, he would like to meet with the council to discuss his plans. Fred suggested presenting an agreement and go from there. I will include the following; 1) What is the temporary building 2) when will project be completed. Fred asked if the council knew what they were wanting to charge for the property. Michelle mentioned, the property was purchased for $841.00. Fred suggested make an offer of $900.00. Mayor Crowell stated she would contact him to find out more information and offer the sale price.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Animal Ordinance – Fred shared the animal ordinance with an updated section; the City Council may, in extenuating circumstances, grant a variance or special use permit to allow an existing bona-fide business that involves non-conforming animals to continue its business operation notwithstanding the replacement of non-conforming animals as required in the normal course of that business. Danny Ware Jr expressed concerns with giving them a variance and then the property has code violations. Fred stated, a written variance can have those stipulations or issued a citation and let the court handle it. Mayor Crowell stated, if you are okay with the ordinance changes, I need a motion to approve. Austin Lee made the motion to adopt ordinance number 1797. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Crowell asked Fred about the request for a variance, Fred stated we can go over this next month, we can’t approve a variance on an ordinance that is not published.
2. Fire Ordinance – Fred stated, I need to know what size the council is going to allow for fire pits. Council agreed a 4X4 fire pit size should be plenty with a minimum height of 6”. Fred stated he would have something ready for next month.
3. Outside city limit water users – Fred suggested we get an ordinance in place, adopt it and get it published, then those water users can be sent notification with X number of days to sign agreement and return or the city will discontinue the water service. Austin Lee suggested, we default back to the $30.00 fee charge if they haven’t turned in their agreement. Fred stated, he could add a limit on maintenance will be collected subject to the discretion of the city council. He shared, if you put an amount, you’ll have to keep changing it as costs go up. He should have something to review in November.
4. Smoke Test – Danny Ware Jr asked if we had heard anything on the smoke test. Mayor Crowell reminded him that La Harpe is on the list, just waiting for KRWA.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Streets, Mark Griffith – absent from meeting. Mayor Crowell stated she will contact him and the invoice from the county we won’t pay until we have a discussion with Mark.
2. Emergency Water Supply Plan – Michelle stated, Dereck has reviewed this an no changes need to be made. Cynthia Carr made the motion to approve the emergency water supply plan. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. KDHE Loan Documents – Michelle stated, Fred has seen these documents and doesn’t see any problems so we need a motion to authorize the mayor to sign on behalf of the city. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to authorize the mayor to sign the KDHE loan documents. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Michelle also shared ordinance #1798 that goes with the loan, we need to publish and send proof of publication but I need authorization allowing the mayor to sign. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to authorize the mayor to sign ordinance #1798 for the KDHE loan. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Park Ball Field – Mayor Crowell suggested, unless it’s a league or a benefit, we should charge for the use of the ball lights. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to charge a $100.00 fee for using the ball field lights. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Fred will work up a rental agreement.
5. Concrete pad for bays – Dereck shared pricing for one 12’X16’ concrete slab at 6” deep would be about $500.00. Mayor Crowell stated he is requesting 8 pads; pea rock, ab3 rock, wash rock, 2” rock, sand, cold patch, fill dirt and misc. Danny Ware Jr mentioned; we don’t need a pad for fill dirt, misc. or 2” rock. Mayor Crowell stated, that leaves us with 5 pads, totaling $2500.00. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to get 5 pads and not to exceed $2500.00. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Nothing to report.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards. Had nothing else to report
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control – Absent from meeting but shared her monthly reports. Council requested she starts sharing the building permits and her monthly letters at each meeting. Mayor Crowell mentioned the Explorer is back at Mike’s, having transmission issues.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the meeting minutes: The LaHarpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Matthew Waggoner, Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Bill Gay, Dennis Sidebottom, Kiefer Endicott, Gentry Dougherty, Meghan Sparks & Ronald Splector and Pamela Waggoner. La Harpe firefighters started meeting pulled out all trucks and did flush maintenance, then took them out to round up tires and all hydrants have been flushed. Marc mentioned, the hydrant at the park is still leaking but someone is coming to town sometime next week to help Gentry with these hydrants. Michelle mentioned that Gentry is requesting paint and gaskets for about 15 hydrants. The hydrant guy will be here next Monday and Tuesday, Gentry would like a spending limit so these can be fixed while he is here. Gentry also made note that the hydrants at 9th & Main and 8th &Washington need to be replaced. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to allow $1250.00 for the fire hydrant repairs to fix and if he is needing more for paint, bring it back to the council. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Marc mentioned, the fire department will be attending Robin Manbeck’s daycare next Friday for fire prevention month. The fire department will also be attending the trunk or treat on October 28th. Marc shared that he is donating the 357 truck from the rural to the city, would like to know what the council wants to do with the old red truck. Council suggested putting it up for sealed bids to be shared at the next council meeting in November.
6. Maintenance Department –The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared. Cynthia Carr expressed concerns about the notification of planned power outages, stating we were unaware. Michelle stated she posted it on Facebook. Mayor Crowell suggested we get the costs for advertisement by using the radio, we don’t have many choices to choose from without spending a lot of money.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Shared the pricing of the sewer charges on the tank water. Fred stated, the city should not be billing yourself for sewer to sale bulk water. Mayor Crowell instructed Michelle to remove the sewer charge from the tank water.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session 15 minutes on non-elected personnel with Larry invited. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to go into executive session 15 minutes on non-elected personnel with Larry invited. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to go back into executive session 20 minutes on non-elected personnel. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

After returning to regular session, the mayor asked Joe Stotler if he would be available to meet Monday with Fred and I. Joe stated he wants to address the issue now; first of all, I would like to apologize and I will be retracting Gentry. Mayor Crowell thanked him and stated the council does not want any ride-a-longs or reserves. Joe shared a policy book for the police department that he piggybacked off of Moran and requested the council review it and approve it. Joe stated it is guidelines for law to follow. Fred asked Joe to send it to him and he would review and bring it back to council next month. Danny Ware Jr asked about a work order on Amber Tisdale’s water meter, wondering if the city is recouping it’s time and parts in fixing what she backed over. Fred stated, that is active case in court with restitution attached.

Austine Lee made the motion to give Larry Laird $1.00 increase effective October 1, 2023. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**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. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 8:57 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City ClerkMayor