CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

Austin Lee Mayor, Ella Mae Crowell

Sharlyn Thompson City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Cynthia Carr City Attorney, Fred Works

Ron Knavel Water Rep, Roy Caler

Police Chief, Joe Stotler

Fire Chief, Marc Waggoner

Code & Animal Control, Penny Miller

**Call to order**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Crowell requested the ordinance to vacate streets be added under unfinished business. Austin Lee requested that Greg Thurman be added under unfinished business. Ron Knavel made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Austin Lee made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 11, 2023, as presented. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Nothing discussed

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Animal variance request – Fred stated the variance request also needs to give the citizens that live within a 200-foot radius, an opportunity to share their opinion before granting.
2. Fire Ordinance – Fred stated, the only changes are section “E”, on construction and size. Ron Knavel made the motion to adopt ordinance #1801. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Streets – Danny Ware Jr attended by phone at 7:07pm. Mark Griffith, with the county public works department was in attendance to answer any questions. Mayor Crowell stated, the council have questions on the price because the city was quoted $80,000.00 but being billed for $146,000.00. Mark stated they had done a double chip; first time was the MC800 and the second time was with RSH. Mark apologized for the misleading quote and stated he would take this to the county commissioners and see if they will tack it on to next year. Mark stated the county has already paid Vance Brothers. Mayor Crowell asked about the county grinding a few of the roads that weren’t done and Mark stated, the county has roads that they need to get caught up on but perhaps we can try to come back next fall, grind them and let them set through the winter. Mark mentioned that he talked to the city crew about brooming the roads and is willing to let them use his broom and he will teach them.
4. Water Ordinance – Fred stated this will take affect on the February billing. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to adopt ordinance #1799. Danny Ware Jr. seconded. Motion carried 2-1 with Cynthia Carr opposed. Ron Knavel and Austin Lee abstained. Danny Ware Jr disconnect his phone call at 7:20pm.
5. Ordinance to vacate streets and alleys – Fred presented ordinance #1800 to vacate streets and alleys at the 1105 S. Main property. Ron Knavel made the motion to adopt ordinance #1800. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Greg Thurman – Mayor Crowell shared that he was okay with everything the council asked of him. Austin Lee asked about the small home and how long will construction take. Mayor Crowell stated, he is having a small home brought in to live in while building and then use the smaller building for a garage. Council requested the project be completed within 18 months. Fred stated he will draw something up.
7. Citizen, Rick Myers, expressed concerns over having a horse and was uncertain what needed to be done. Fred stated that Penny will get with him.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Thanksgiving / Christmas Employees – Ron Knavel made the motion to give all full-time employees $150.00 with taxes withheld and part-time employees $100.00 with taxes withheld and checks will be issued December 1, 2023. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
2. Fire Hydrants – Michelle shared an invoice from Core and Main in the amount of $3,927.32 and stated that Gentry has purchased the approved $1,250.00 as need for the fire hydrants but needs the other items on this quote to fix all hydrant on the East side of Main. Austin Lee made the motion to give Gentry $2,677.32 to fix those hydrants with the money coming out of the fire fund. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Concrete pad for bays – Dereck shared a note that he did not figure it correctly and needs 11 more blocks totaling $715.00 and that they need more rebar for the concrete. The lowest price on rebar was $597.20. Austin Lee made the motion to get what is needed to finish and not to exceed $1,312.20. 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. Cynthia Carr asked Joe to put “AM” and “PM” on his time card and Joe agreed.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. Had nothing else to report
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 and Gentry Dougherty. Absent were, Meghan Sparks, Ronald Splector and Pamela Waggoner. La Harpe firefighters started meeting, took 357, 360 and 359 out, set up staging area, did training on arial unit to train firemen then ended meeting. Marc stated the fire fighters will be doing smoke test training next month.

Mayor Crowell opened 3 bids for the purchase of the 1976 Fire Truck: Gentry Dougherty- $1,001.50, Steve Robb - $800.00 and Larry Laird - $300.00. Austin Lee made the motion to accept Gentry’s bid of $1,001.50. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

1. Maintenance Department –The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared.
2. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session 20 minutes for Attorney/Client. Austin Lee made a motion to go into executive session 20 minutes for Attorney/Client. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Danny Ware Jr arrived at 7:45pm.

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Sharlyn Thompson made a motion to approve bills as presented. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to adjourn. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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City ClerkMayor