CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 13, 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

 Maintenance, Dereck Ranes

**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**

Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

 Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 8, 2023 and the special meeting November 30, 2023 as presented. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Debbie Bearden arrived after new business and asked the community and council if anyone would be interested in a community garden. She stated the community garden would be by the church and she is hoping to receive some grant funds to help build raised garden beds. She noted on the 3rd Friday of every month the church has a food pantry and are able to feed 15-20 families but there are many times we don’t get much produce so that is why I was thinking of a garden with fresh vegetables. She stated the church will supply the water to water the garden she is just needing to know if the community would have any interest in helping with the upkeep of the garden. Sharlyn Thompson asked who gets the vegetables. Debbie mentioned, any of our volunteers, the food pantry, La Harpe or anyone in need around us. Michelle suggested she put something in the lobby to see if there was any interest from our local citizens. She stated she would get in touch by email.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2024 COLA – Mayor Crowell stated the COLA for 2024 is 3.2% and Allen County gave their employees a 4% increase. Michelle is the only employee for this increase because her pay has topped out. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to give Michelle a COLA increase of 3.2%. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
2. 2024 Holidays – A list of 10 holidays was presented to the council for approval. Austin Lee made the motion to approve the requested holidays for 2024. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
3. 2024 GAAP Waiver – Cynthia Carr made the motion to approve the GAAP waiver fopr 2024. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. ACARF Donation – Mayor Crowell stated Gary McIntosh asked if the city would donate $100.00 to the pancake feed for ACARF this Saturday. He stated all donations will be matched. Austin Lee asked how much we paid to take dogs to ACARF. Mayor Crowell stated $40.00 a dog. Austin stated, there is our donation. No action was taken on this request.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Absent from meeting.
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 –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, Ronald Splector and Gentry Dougherty. Absent were, Meghan Sparks, Kiefer Endicott and Pamela Waggoner. La Harpe firefighters started meeting, took out truck and practiced on fire exercises, then ended meeting. Mayor Crowell asked where we were on the fire hydrants, Marc stated they have enough parts to fix what is left on East side. Dereck Ranes stated that 8 have been repaired on the East side, there are 2 more we need to get to just waiting on parts to come in.
6. Maintenance Department –The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared. Dereck stated the small bucket truck has a loose bucket and a company out of Olathe would be in town Monday to let us know what it needs to fix it. Austin Lee asked Dereck to explain how he handles his water bill every month. Dereck stated he reads his own meter and submits it to the water company, he stated they normally come out every 6 months or so and check things. Sharlyn Thompson asked Michelle to look into electronic payments.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

 Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes on non-elected personnel. Austin Lee made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes on non-elected personnel. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0. After returning to regular session, Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to give Dereck Ranes an $1.00 per hour pay rate increase effective December 14, 2023. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Austin Lee suggested we look at our building rate for reservations. He suggested raising the rental fee to $75.00 and also add a room fee of $50.00, for those just interested in using one of the rooms at city hall. Also stated waiving all fees for funerals and community events/engagements. Austin Lee made the motion to increase our rental fees to $75.00 a day for the building and $50.00 a day for any room effective January 1, 2024. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**TREASURER’S REPORT –** File for audit. Mayor Crowell suggested we put $25,000.00 in the General Fund and $9,000.00 in the water fund so that we do not have any violations. She suggested take half out of equipment reserve and the other half out of electric. Austin stated, we need to stop using the electric fund to keep the other ones a float. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to transfer $17,000.00 out of equipment reserve and $17,000.00 out of the electric fund to replenish the General fund and Water fund for year end. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Sharlyn Thompson made a motion to approve bills as presented. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

 Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 8:12 pm.

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City ClerkMayor