CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

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 Maintenance, Dereck Ranes

Water Rep, Roy Caler

Code & Animal Control, Penny Miller

City Attorney, Fred Works

**Call to order**

Mayor Crowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance with 3 members present. Danny Ware Jr and Ron Knavel were absent.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Crowell requested an executive session on non-elected personnel to be added at the end. Austin Lee made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 10, 2024 and the special meeting January 24, 2024 as presented. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Marcia Davis, with Thrive, shared with the council there was a grant possibility to help replace or build new sidewalks. This grant would be county wide and each community could get up to $30,000.00, it is an 80/20 match. Marcia encouraged the council to contact La Harpe’s county commissioner and explain how this opportunity could benefit La Harpe. You can call your county commissioner or attend a meeting next Tuesday.
2. Ciara Dobson owns property at 406 McKinley and she told the council she is tearing down the trailer and would like to replace it with a 1982 double wide. She shared pictures and stated she was aware of La Harpe’s building codes. Austin Lee made the motion to grant her a variance on the home. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. KRWA Voting Delegates – Michelle stated last years delegates were Sharlyn Thompson and Austin Lee. Cynthia Carr made the motion for Sharlyn and Austin to be the delegates. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
2. Lead & Copper – Michelle shared what the city staff has been working on and the loop holes we are running into, one of those being the “unknowns” on the surveys. The city needs to know what is on the customers side by either going to those homes and offering to go in and look or have the company that KDHE hired, JEO Consulting Group, go door to door but they would like a city employee with them so that our citizens are nervous about letting a stranger in their home. The council agreed to doing it that way. Michelle stated another issue, the city is needing to know what is going into the customers meter and the size of it and to do so the crew would need to dig up each water meter. Dereck stated that KRWA has a small pot holing machine and would come help the city, their machine is not big enough to do the whole town but they could do a few and the fee for the machine would be $25.00 an hour. Dereck shared 3 quotes to rent the machine and the council decided we can’t afford to go that route with the driving time. It was suggested we reach out to Humboldt, Iola and Moran to see if they would rent their machine to us. Mayor Crowell suggested we contact the insurance company first to make sure we have coverage.
3. Trees – Austin Lee stated it’s been 2 years since we last did any tree trimming, we need to get going on this and suggested we get some bids.
4. Ditches & Roads – Austin Lee asked about the roads and ditches getting done and wondering where we were with this. Michelle stated she talked to Mark and it will be later this fall and he intends to help the city cut the ditches. Dereck stated we did some ditch work and replaced 2 whistles which we now need to order. Pricing through Cleavers for a 12”X30’ is $616.20 or order 10 for $5,047.00. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to buy 10 whistles and take the money from special highway. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**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. Cynthia Carr asked about FEMA on Joe’s timecard. The mayor stated he is working with them trying to get money for the city from that last storm.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. Had nothing else to report. Mayor Crowell asked if she had started condemning 2 properties. Penny said yes; Ronnie Head’s place and Betty Hutton’s.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Absent from meeting but share minutes. The La Harpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Dennis Sidebottom, Ronald Splector, Kiefer Endicott and Meghan Sparks. Absent were, Pamela Waggoner, Bill Gay, Matthew Waggoner. La Harpe firefighters started meeting, took out fire trucks did cross training on city fire truck and the rural arial, then talked about this year’s upcoming fire season and being prepared then ended the meeting. Gentry Dougherty is no longer with the fire department because he has moved to Parsons.
6. Maintenance Department –The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared. Dereck stated they have been working on the fire hydrants on the west side of town. All have been fixed other than 2 hydrants which are 1983 models, it takes a different kit to fix those. He stated a guy is coming to help us tear apart. On the East side of town, the hydrant at 10th & Jefferson needs a whole kit, not sure on pricing, but if used it will bust our main. Mayor Crowell suggested he get pricing to get those fixed. Dereck shared 3 prices on a smaller chainsaw. Cynthia Carr recommended a battery powered chainsaw. Sharlyn Thompson commented that we already have one. No action was taken. Dereck mentioned the small bucket truck should be fixed Friday or Monday.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Michelle shared the interest in city lots at 1012 & 1102 S Washington. The council agreed they want to know what the interested parties are wanting to do and the time frame before council prices them. Michelle informed the council she will be leaving February 28th at 3:00pm to go to court clerk training in Wichita on February 29th and March 1st.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session on non-elected personnel. Sharlyn Thompson made a motion to go into executive session for 50 minutes on non-elected personnel. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Sharlyn Thompson made a motion to approve bills as presented, with the exception of the MOCIC invoice, stating don’t pay that one. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Cynthia Carr made the motion to adjourn. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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City ClerkMayor