CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 13, 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, Keanen Badders

Danny Ware Jr Water Rep, Roy Caler

Ron Knavel Code & Animal Control, Penny Miller

City Attorney, Fred Works

Police Chief, Joe Stotler

**Call to order**

Mayor Crowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance with 5 members present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Danny Ware Jr added signage on main street under new business. Austin Lee made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ron Knavel made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 14, 2024 as presented. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0, Danny Ware Jr abstained since he was absent from that meeting.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Marcia Davis, with Thrive, shared with the council, the Thrive Community Conversation is April 9th at La Harpe city hall beginning at 6:00pm and normally last a couple of hours.
2. Barney Devine with boy scout troop #55 out of Iola was present with a boy scout trying to earn his citizenship in community and to do so he has to attend a meeting and ask questions. Phillip Warren is from Colony and is in high school. He asked the council; have there been any problems in the past that have been improved. Mayor Crowell stated the city communication has improved as well as the improvement to our infrastructure. Phillip asked the council to introduce themselves and why they choose to be on the council board. Danny Ware Jr stated he did not the electrical issues the city was having and wanted to see it fixed. Cynthia Carr stated she has a strong interest in the community. Sharlyn Thompson moved to La Harpe 8 years ago and wanted to be part of the community. Mayor Crowell stated she has lived here 20+ years and started out on the council then was elected mayor, which I am now on my 3rd term and I have a lot of respect and care for this community. Austin Lee stated he has been a La Harpe citizen his whole life and wanted to see La Harpe be the best it could be. Ron Knavel was on the fire department many years back and had citizens asking him to run for council. Fred Works has been an attorney for 41+ years and recently joined up with La Harpe. Phillip asked, if someone was looking at the changes in the community, would it be negative or positive feedback. Mayor Crowell shared that the city had to raise rates and it has been a negative impact, the decisions the council has to make are tough sometimes but they know it needs to be done to keep the city going. Austin Lee stated our city staff is a positive change in our community. Barney thanked the council for allowing Phillip to address them, he also shared they had 4 new boys sign up today so the head count is now nine. The scouts do fundraisers, community service, go camping, learn survival skills. I teach these young men and women what is right from wrong, even get a chance to do some camping right here in La Harpe.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Briana Wright - Kwikom – Was not present. Penny stated they should be starting on their project as soon as the permit is paid for. Mayor Crowell suggested we get a yearly fee for each pole.
2. County Road Bill – Mayor Crowell stated, we have the money and I recommend we get it paid, it is the bills for tonight’s approval.
3. Lead & Copper – Mayor Crowell stated that Keanen and Larry have been door knocking and helping citizens identify their water lines. Mayor Crowell suggested the council look over Dereck’s note about KRWA assisting the city to identify the city side. The charge is $25.00 an hour for the machine needed and KRWA helped a community with about 300 meters and their cost was between $250.00 and $300.00. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to get in touch with KRWA so they can help the city for what is required. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Michelle stated we need approval to get the pre-application for SRF loan money started. She explained, if the city has lead this loan will pay for an engineer to come in and replace lines. If a customer has lead and has no means to replace, the city must be willing to come up with a solution to help or the loan will not be granted to help the city. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to fill out the pre-application. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
4. Ordinance Book Update – Michelle stated she used Humboldt’s new ordinance to update the cities.

She stated Sharlyn has proof read the book and the mistakes have been corrected. Fred now has the book and will go through it and bring it back for adoption in May or June.

1. City Hall Roof – Mayor Crowell stated the guys have patched a few leaks on the roof by using the Through The Roof and it is still leaking. Keanen stated they patched everything they could see and fixed some guttering. Danny Ware Jr suggested it needs to be cleaned, pressure washed and apply a coat of elastomeric. Mayor Crowell suggested we get a couple of bids and bring back to the council.
2. PSI Insurance Renewal – Mayor Crowell shared a printout of the renewal from PSI, stating the city insurance went up about $5,000.00. Mayor Crowell requested a motion to approve the policy. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to approve the PSI renewal. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Signage on Main Street – Danny Ware Jr was asking if the city could put a couple of school zone signs on Main Street that will designate the 20mph zone during those times, suggested time was 7:00am – 4:00pm, and all other times, the speed limit could be 30mph. Fred stated, not sure the city has control over the speed on Main Street since it belongs to county, if you get a hold of them and they don’t care you could just do it. Mayor Crowell stated she would get a hold of the county.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Shared with council that another animal was dumped at ACARF which is now pending in municipal court. He suggested the city ask ACARF about placing a big sign stating; you are on video and dumping an animal in the city is a violation of the city code and you will be prosecuted. Mayor Crowell recommended a $500.00 fine. Fred will work something up for approval at next month’s meeting.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and report. Joe stated he has been working a lot of hours with FEMA to get money for the city from the July storm, stating the city should get close to $50,000.00 to cover all costs.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. Penny stated, the city owns a little piece of a corner lot that Dustin Sinclair has been maintaining and Dustin was interested in acquiring it if the city would be interested in selling. Mayor Crowell suggested giving it to him if he would be willing to pay all fees associated with getting the property in his name. Fred suggested an agreement and will work something up. Penny shared the new waiver to request a variance form. 3 printouts were shared to get a new computer, after reviewing them, Danny Ware Jr made the motion to get Penny a new computer not to exceed $750.00. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Monthly meeting minutes were shared: The La Harpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Dennis Sidebottom, Ronald Splector, Kiefer Endicott, Bill Gay, Matthew Waggoner, Gregg Geiler and Meghan Sparks. Absent was, Pamela Waggoner. La Harpe firefighters started meeting, added new fire fighter, Gregg Geiler, then we pulled out city 350, aerial 357, 360 pumper. Did pumper to aerial exercises then ended the meeting. Marc mentioned the radio for the 351 unit went out and he needs a new one, he stated he found one for $450.00. Mayor Crowell requested a motion to buy a new radio. Cynthia Carr made the motion to buy the fire department a new radio. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Maintenance Department –The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared. Mayor Crowell mentioned that Larry bought a nice water pump and I am suggesting the city pay Larry back and order 2 more. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to buy 2 pumps and reimburse Larry for the one he bought. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Crowell stated the crew pickup threw a code and Manbeck is going to look at it, thinking it might be a sensor but just wanted you all aware.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Had nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session on non-elected personnel. Austin Lee made a motion to go into executive session for 20 minutes on non-elected personnel. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0. After returning to regular session Danny Ware Jr made the motion to give Keanen Badders a $1.00 per hour raise effective March 11, 2024. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to change Larry Laird employment status from temporary full-time to full-time with benefits included. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to adjourn. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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City ClerkMayor