CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 8, 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 Attorney, Fred Works

Ron Knavel Water Rep, Roy Caler

Code & Animal Control, Penny Miller

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 4 members present. Danny Ware Jr was absent.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Crowell requested an executive session on non-elected personnel under discussion on agenda items. Austin Lee requested his seat be listed under new business. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 10, 2024 as presented. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. No citizens call for business

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Roof Bids – 3 bids were shared: Boren’s Roofing submitted a patch only with no warranty for $7,300.00, they also submitted a 2nd bid for $53,010.00 with a 10-year warranty. Murphy Roofing Restoration & Repair submitted a bid for $34,178.34 with a 10-year warranty. Good Faith Contracting submitted a bid for $228,400.00 with a lifetime warranty. Mayor Crowell stated, if we don’t get it fixed it will start destroying everything else and suggested taking $10,000.00 from the fitness center and $25,000.00 from the electric fund. Austin Lee expressed concerns with everything else the city needs to do; water tower, sewer upgrade and the lead and copper issue. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to hire Murphy Roofing, taking $25,000.00 from the electric fund and $10,000.00 from the fitness center. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 3-1 with Austin Lee opposing.
2. Gym Floors – Tabled until June.
3. Fitness Center – Sharlyn Thompson stated we need to raise the rate of our fitness center; we are too cheap and our expenses are going up so we need cover those expenses. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to raise the rate to $15.00 a month effective July 1, 2024. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Appointments – Mayor Crowell suggested the following appointments: City clerk, Michelle Altis; City Treasurer, Audra Riggins; City Attorney, Fred Works; Municipal Judge, Patty Boyd; Fire Chief, Marc Waggoner; Police Chief, Joe Stotler, Code Enforcement/Animal Control, Penny Miller; Banks – Bank of Commerce, Landmark National, Emprise & Community National Bank; official newspaper, Iola Register. Austin Lee made the motion to accept all appointments. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
2. Tornado Sirens – Mayor Crowell stated there was an issue when the last big storm came through and the fire chief and police chief both requested the sirens be sounded with a potential threat to a tornado in La Harpe, the Iola police chief called me and said he would not sound the sirens because Iola was thought in that threat. Mayor Crowell expressed how unacceptable this was and would like to explore the idea of getting out of the old contract. Joe Stotler had suggested the city spend $500.00 and have the ability to sound our own sirens. Fred stated the contract is 20 years old and the policy needs to be addressed first. 20 years ago, the county did not have the Emergency Management System, but I think the first step will be to address the policy first.
3. Reordering Checks & Deposit Slips – Mayor Crowell stated prices have gone up since Bank of Commerce took over Bank of Gas. Cynthia Carr made the motion to order checks and deposit slips through QuickBooks. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Austin Lee’s council seat – Austin stated he is vacating his seat effective May 31, 2024 because he has moved out of the city limits. Mayor Crowell suggested Michelle post something about the vacancy and if they are interested in serving on council to submit a letter of intent.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Fred stated the State of Kansas changed the statues a couple of years ago and there is now one that pertains to “dumping animals”, we can add this to the city code book and not have to publish an ordinance. Fred is hoping to have the code book on the July agenda with the dumping code in the code book and also include ACARF. Fred mentioned that Joe has a design for a sign, so we will get together and present it to council in July. On the school zone, no action was taken. And Fred said he has the Dustin Sinclair agreement and will send it to Michelle.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and report. Joe also shared a signup sheet for those interested in getting notifications on Humboldt’s new weather radar system. Everyone wanted to be added to the list, Joe will get it submitted.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports and written notices.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Absent from meeting. No meeting minutes were shared. Mayor Crowell mentioned a fundraiser was planned for Marc to help with unexpected expenses while his grandson is in the hospital.
6. Maintenance Department - The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared. A quote from Van Diest for mosquito spray was shared in the amount of $5,335.00. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to buy the spray. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Michelle asked the council if they would be available for a special meeting on Thursday, May 30th with Bruce Boettcher to go over our sewer project. Council members agreed to meet with Bruce, May 30th at 5:00pm.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session on non-elected personnel for 10 minutes. Sharlyn Thompson made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes on non-elected personnel. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

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

**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. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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City ClerkMayor