CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 10, 2024

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

Danny Ware Jr Mayor, Ella Mae Crowell

Sharlyn Thompson City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Cynthia Carr Police Chief, Joe Stotler

Ron Knavel Water Rep, Roy Caler

Code & Animal Control, Penny Miller

City Maintenance, Larry Laird

City Fire Chief, Marc Waggoner

**Call to order**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Crowell stated the tree bids will be discussed at a later meeting. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 12, 2024, and the special meeting on June 27, 2024, Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

No citizens call for business.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Mullins variance – Penny Miller submitted the request to the council; after reviewing, Ron Knavel made the motion to grant the variance for 2 horses. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 3-1, Sharlyn Thompson opposed.
2. Pempkes Tree Service – Tabled until a later date.
3. Old Sewer Plant – Mayor Crowell stated Gas City does not want to get rid of it but they don’t want it gifted either. Mayor Crowell said she will keep on them about it.
4. Tornado sirens – Mayor Crowell stated that Joe has been checking into this so that La Harpe has control over when a storm comes our way. Danny Ware Jr asked why they can’t sound each community separately. Mayor Crowell stated, it’s up to the Iola Chief of police to make the decision to sound the alarm. Joe Stotler stated we can have control of our own but it would cost the city around $800.00 to have access to the system. Mayor Crowell stated that Sheriff Murphy said each town should be able to be sounded separately but she wasn’t for sure on that. Cynthia Carr asked if it could be tested. Danny Ware Jr suggested someone talk to FEMA and the county commissioners, instead of paying $800.00 we need to first find out more information and if it’s something the city can have control over. Danny also suggested having Fred look at the agreement we have with Iola.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. EMC Dividend Check – Michelle shared a copy of this year’s dividend check in the amount of $3,618.19. Mayor Crowell stated it is a little less than normal but at least we got something back.
2. Tire Quotes for the 2010 F250 – 4 bids were submitted; Ken Pratt Motors – replacing shocks and tires for $876.00, Mike Manbeck – replacing shocks only for $525.00, Sigg Tire & Repair – replacing shocks and tires for $890.00 and Quality Auto – replacing shocks only - $702.42. Mayor Crowell suggested Ken Pratt do the tires and Mike Manbeck do the shocks for $801.00. Cynthia Carr made the motion to have Ken Pratt Motors do the work for $876.00. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**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 and report. He asked the council if they would be willing to have a property gifted to them. This is a property that we tried to purchase at the tax sale but was outbid and the owner is in court for this property and just can’t afford to keep dumping money into. She is requesting 60 days to remove 2 sheds and some lumber. The council had no problem with that and suggested Fred work up a quit claim deed. Joe stated the city would have to tear down what is left of the mobile home or hire it out. Penny Miller stated, there is not much left and the city could probably do it and save the money. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to have the property gifted to the city with a deed from Fred and allow her 60 days to remove the buildings and lumber. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. Mayor Crowell thanked Penny for stepping up and pitching in with maintenance.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Had nothing to report but shared the fire meeting minutes; The La Harpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Ronald Splector, Kiefer Endicott, Bill Gay, Matthew Waggoner, Dennis Sidebottom, and Meghan Sparks. Absent were, Pamela Waggoner and Justin Pritchard. La Harpe firefighters were at La Harpe Days and helped with rides, dunk tank, water sprinkler and other stuff. We used this as our June meeting.
6. Maintenance Department - The workorders were shared. Mayor Crowell stated the crew has been very busy with locates and water line breaks. Ron Knavel suggested the work orders just have one master copy each month. Mayor Crowell asked Michelle to make a cover sheet for all council members but only make one copy of the workorders and they can be reviewed when they come in to look at bills. Larry Laird mentioned a whistle on 11th street that was decaying at the bottom and needs to be addressed but it’s probably a 2–3-foot whistle. Michelle suggested looking at Ray’s and Danny Ware Jr asked if it could be filled on the bottom. Larry didn’t think that would fix the issue. Mayor Crowell suggested Larry keep looking into it.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Reminded the council of the upcoming budget meeting on Monday, July 15th at 6:00pm.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session on non-elected personnel for 5 minutes. Cynthia Carr made a motion to go into executive session for 5 minutes on non-elected personnel and resume at 7:55pm. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

After returning to regular session Mayor Crowell asked Joe where he was with the lettering on the police car. She reminded him that it needs to be identified as our car and not a state vehicle. Cynthia Carr suggested lettering on top of the windshield so those that are stopped can look in the rearview mirror and see it is law enforcement and not someone pretending to be. Joe stated that would work because of the light bar being there. Joe said he found lettering for about $200.00 and he also had a quote for a door wrap that was $800.00 - $1,000.00. Cynthia Carr suggested he look into more pricing.

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Danny Ware Jr asked about the City of Iola invoice charging us for sales tax. Michelle said she would look into it. Cynthia Carr inquired about the KMU bill making sure it wasn’t part of Dereck’s schooling, Michelle stated that is our quarterly dues for training. Cynthia Carr also asked about Advantage Computers, Kwikom and Modern Copy. Michelle stated, city hall had a power surge and the office computers and printers would not connect to the internet or the printer. Danny Ware Jr expressed frustrations over a few bills from KMEA and don’t recall the council approving such charges. Going forward the council needs to have the project submitted for bids and brought in front of the council before doing any work unless it’s in the event of an emergency.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to adjourn. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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City ClerkMayor