CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 11, 2024

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

Angela Barker Mayor, Ella Mae Crowell

Sharlyn Thompson City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Cynthia Carr City Attorney, Fred Works

Ron Knavel Water Rep, Roy Caler

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. Danny Ware Jr was absent.

**Approval of Agenda**

Ron Knavel made the motion to approve the agenda. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Angela Barker made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 13, 2024 and the special meetings on November 2, 2024, and November 18, 2024 as presented. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING – NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN**

Mayor Crowell opened the public hearing on the neighborhood revitalization plan for public comments. No public comments were presented. Mayor Crowell requested authorization to execute by signing the plan. Cynthia Carr made the motion to authorize the mayor to sign the documents needed for the NRP. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor Crowell closed the public hearing.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Citizen, Roger Womelsdorf shared that he had an electrical issue and the city hired KJ Electric to fix it but whatever they did fried everything in the house. Roger stated, the electrician said he would take care of everything, I am just wanting to bring this to your attention and wondering about some sort of compensation. City attorney, Fred Works, suggested he get a second opinion and turn it in to the insurance company, and the city will back your claim because the city hired a contractor that should be insured.
2. JC Westervelt, father to Braden Westervelt, expressed concerns about a large bill his son received because of a tree that took out a powerline. JC Westervelt asked the council if they would consider rescinding the bill because it was an act of nature. Fred explained how the homeowner is responsible for the dead tree which could have fallen on a car or house. Sharlyn Thompson suggested the city could work with Braden on a payment plan but the city is out of money because of the tree and we need to recoup our costs. Braden did mention that he filed a claim with his insurance company and waiting to hear back. Mayor Crowell suggested he keep us n form and the city can give you sometime to work it out.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Emergency Water Supply Plan – Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to accept the plan. Angela Barker seconded. Motion carried 40.
2. Employee Insurance Benefits – Mayor Crowell recommended the city go with KMIT and change the deductible. She stated if the employee wants a lower deductible, they will pay the difference and the employees will pay for dental and vision coverage. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to go with the Blue Edge Plan with a $5,000.00 deductible for $511.11 a month per employee and if the employee wants a lower deductible, they will pay the difference and the employee will also pay for dental and vision if they want it. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 3-1, Cynthia Carr opposed.
3. Ninnescah Flats Solar Project – Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to sign the agreement and resolution for the solar project. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 3-1, Ron Knavel opposed.
4. Kwikom Business Phones – Mayor Crowell stated the city could save about $115.00 a month by changing our phone service to Kwikom. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to switch over to Kwikom. Angela Barker seconded. Motion carried 3-1, Cynthia Carr opposed.
5. Kennel Fees – Tabled to January.
6. Employee Handbook & Job Descriptions – Tabled for a workshop at a latter date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2025 Holiday Proposal – Ron Knavel made the motion to accept the proposal except keep new years day at January 1, 2025. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

The 2025 Holiday schedule will be:

Wednesday, January 1st, New Years Day

Monday, February 17th, Washington’s Birthday

Monday, May 26th, Memorial Day

Friday, July 4th, Independence Day

Monday, September 1st, Labor Day

Monday, October 13th, Columbus Day

Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th, Thanksgiving and the day after

Thursday, December 25th and Friday December 26th, Christmas and the day after

1. 2025 COLA – Mayor Crowell requested this moved to the end of the meeting for an executive session on non-elected personnel.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Shared court costs from other courts.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports.
4. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the fire meeting minutes; The LaHarpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Kiefer Endicott, Matthew Waggoner, Dennis Sidebottom, Bill Gay, Trevor Stover and Meghan Sparks. Absent were Pamela Waggoner, Ronald Splector and Justin Pritchard. Started meeting, welcomed new firefighter Trevor Stover, started training him on operations on truck then continued on modifications on fire station, then ended meeting.
5. Maintenance Department - The workorders were shared. Mayor Crowell suggested the city reach out to Steve Robb an offer him an hourly wage to help the crew when they need it. Ron thought it would be a good idea to visit with him.
6. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Michelle shared that she passed her small system water test.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into an executive session on non-elected personnel for 5 minutes. Angela Barker made the motion to go into an executive session on non-elected personnel for 5 minutes. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

After returning to regular session Ron Knavel made the motion to give Michelle Altis a $1.00 per hour raise effective January 1, 2025. Angela Barker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Angela Barker made the motion to adjourn. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 8:16 pm.

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City ClerkMayor