CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 10, 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

Danny Ware Jr (arrived @ 7:15) Water Rep, Roy Caler

Ron Knavel 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 tabled roof bids until the May meeting. Sharlyn Thompson requested the fitness center be added under new business. 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 March 13, 2024 as presented. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Brandon Aiello requested a variance on the ordinance pertaining to the keeping of 3 dogs, and would like permission to keep one more dog above the three. Austin Lee made the motion to deny the request for granting a variance. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Bruce Boettcher – Bruce shared contracts to get the sewer project under way. He shared the funding opportunities out there now will help pay for the engineering agreement. He suggested; the council could sign the agreement tonight and get things started now, or wait for approval on funding or just table the project until a later date. He reminded the council they have already been approved for the KDHE loan which would help with costs. Mayor Crowell asked if any funding was going to be available though CDBG. Bruce stated they will open up grant opportunities in September but only have about a million dollars available. Bruce reminded the council, this agreement is for the lift stations, not the collection system at this time and funding will be in place before bidding out the project. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to have the mayor sign the agreement and get started now. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Tree Bids – One tree bid from Knight’s Tree Service was submitted for $30,000.00. Cayle Allen with Pempkes Tree Service was in attendance and shared with the council his quotes. He also stated the town looks pretty good from last time he was here trimming and suggest cutting over the top of the primary and secondary lines and removing small trees growing under the powerlines, doing so would cost the city $12,900.00. Mayor Crowell asked, if he ran into any other issues, what would the extra costs be. Cayle stated, it’s hard to give you a figure without knowing. Mayor Crowell suggested, if he sees issues make a list and we can get council together to discuss. Danny Ware Jr asked about a starting date. Cayle stated, probably within a month. Cynthia Carr made the motion to go with Cayle at a price of $12,900.00. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Roof Bids – Tabled to May
4. La Harpe Days Donation – La Harpe Days President, Joe Stotler, ask the city council if they would donate to La Harpe Days this year. He stated last year you donated $500.00 and we had 3 rides, this year we have 6 rides coming to town. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to donate $1,000.00 to La Harpe Days and take the money out of the fitness center. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Joe thanked the council and mentioned they could stop and see Michelle and she would get them a t-shirt.
5. La Harpe Days Beer Garden Request – Joe requested to have a beer garden in the park and shared that last year it went really well, no issues at all. He stated, last year a few had coolers but this year we will be asking for no coolers in hopes they support our vendors. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to allow a beer garden at La Harpe Days. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Gym Floor – Danny ware asked how the grant on the floor was coming along because he talked to a guy that did a project for me and he works with a company from Canada and they have a rubberized floor paint that would work great and cut down on the echo in the gym. Mayor Crowell stated she talked to a Thrive grant writer and is looking into some possibilities.
7. Collections – Sharlyn Thompson asked what other cities were doing to collect money owed. Michelle stated our neighboring cities use Setoff, but I have reached out to CBK, Collection Bureau of Kansas, just waiting for a reply back.
8. Fitness Center – Sharlyn Thompson suggested raising the membership fee stating; we have purchased new equipment but have not raised the fee since we started the fitness center. Raising the fee could help with getting the gym floor done. Danny Ware Jr suggested he get a hold of the floor guy and get a quote and then look at fitness center fees after that.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – In regards to the animal that was dumped at ACARF, Fred suggested the council put something on the books about charging a fine for dumping an animal in the city of La Harpe, I just need to know if you want to change the code and if so, what amount of fine do you think it should be. Mayor Crowell suggested the maximum fine of $500.00. Fred also thought it would be a good idea to get a couple of good-sized signs that states dumping is not allowed and will be fined $500.00 if caught doing so. Joe suggested 2 signs at ACARF might help, he stated he would get a quote and bring back to council. Fred stated, on the Dustin Sinclair agreement I need to have a legal description, once I have that, I’ll have something ready for him. Fred suggested the city start writing citations for yards not in compliance, the city has 2 city wide cleanups every year with the first one coming up in June. If Penny issues citations, and they come to court, we can explain if the yard gets cleaned up the citation will be dismissed and then do this again in the fall when Pride has their cleanup.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and report.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. Penny shared to resolutions to condemn 310 W. 5th and 409 S. Jefferson. Austin Lee made the motion to approve resolution number 2024-2. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Austin Lee made the motion to approve resolution number 2024-3. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Crowell mentioned, she talked to county about changing speed limit on main for the school zone and the county commissioners would like a resolution. Austin Lee suggested the city get the flashing light signs, after looking at pricing, Fred suggested talking with the county or school districts about helping with the costs of those signs. Mayor Crowell stated she would contact the school superintendents. Mayor Crowell also shared that the crew has all of the fire hydrants working.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Absent from meeting. 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, and Justin Pritchard. Absent were, Pamela Waggoner and Meghan Sparks. La Harpe firefighters started meeting, took out trucks and did fire exercises, the welcomed Justin Pritchard to join the fire team, then ended the meeting. Gregg Geiler, resigned from the fire department.
6. Maintenance Department - The workorders and Dereck’s progress report were shared.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Asked the council if any of them would like the new 2024 Governing Body Handbook, the cost is $42.00 each. No one was interested in obtaining a copy.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session on non-elected personnel for Penny Miller and Joe Stotler’s yearly reviews. Danny Ware Jr made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes on non-elected personnel. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Danny Ware Jr made a motion to extend the executive session for 45 minutes on non-elected personnel. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to adjourn. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Adjourned at 9:55 pm.

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City ClerkMayor