CITY OF LAHARPE

SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 30, 2024 AT 5:00PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

Ron Knavel Mayor, Ella Mae Crowell

Danny Ware Jr (arrived @ 5:02) City Clerk, Michelle Altis

Sharlyn Thompson

Austin Lee

Cynthia Carr

 Call to order

Mayor Crowell called the special meeting to order at 5:00p.m. with 4 council members present. Danny Ware Jr was absent.

Bruce Boettcher, with BG Consultants, was in attendance and Wes Weishaar attended by phone. Also in attendance was Carey Spoon with SEKRPC. Bruce presented a project update to the council; phase 1 is the lift station rehabilitation at a cost of $1,465,000.00. The PER is the report which has been completed, the SSES is almost complete, we have identified all manholes and the CCTV camera system has been completed. The smoke test with KRWA is half completed. Wes mentioned that he has been in contact with KRWA and they are planning on finishing the town soon. City clerk, Michelle Altis, mentioned the city has not received the findings on the CCTV. Wes stated he has a system map showing the deficiencies and will get it sent to the city.

Bruce went over some of the funding options to pay for this project; 1) USDA- funding is guaranteed for 5 years as is the interest rate but if grants become available the city can’t go after them until the five years is up. 2) KDHE – the city already has the loan proceeds in place but if you don’t use it all, whatever is left will start accumulating interest. 3) CDBG – Carey Spoon mentioned they only have 1 million available for water and sewer projects. She recommended, if the city decides to go with CDBG do the 50% match which means the city will match the $650,000.00 with a 50% match of $650,000.00 of city money. 4) KWO grants – Ron Knavel asked about Gas City, if they have a need to replace their stations could both cities split this grant. Bruce stated, yes that would be ideal for this grant. Mayor Crowell stated she would contact the mayor in Gas. Bruce shared, with the KWO there is a 5 million available for technical assistance and 8 million available for the project. Danny Ware Jr asked if the city should complete the smoke test before moving forward. Wes stated, the smoke test won’t change the scope of the project. Bruce agreed with Wes but encouraged Wes to get to the council the collection system report.

Danny Ware Jr left the meeting at 5:47pm.

Carey Spoon mentioned the city could apply for CDBG funding in September and those awarded would be announced in January or February of 2025.

Mayor Crowell asked what the cost of the design is. Bruce stated the cost is $130,000.00 and that price is good for the next couple of years, but anything after that would probably need to be refreshed.

Bruce shared a sewer rate example with 4 different options but the council would like to see a more accurate report with the correct numbers. Michelle stated she would send those to Bruce.

Carey Spoon mentioned that KWO will be in Chanute June 20th for a public meeting and we are hoping afterwards they can announce another round of grants. Bruce mentioned he would like to attend just to listen to what they have.

Michelle asked about publishing the public hearing. Carey suggested to publish it, have the public hearing but let USDA know the city is not ready to move forward. Mayor Crowell asked for a motion to publish the public hearing for June 12th. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to publish the public hearing for June 12th. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Crowell stated ACARF was wanting to hire the city to hang a sign on their building because they do not have a bucket truck. The council did not entertain the request and suggested they reach out to Ray Maloney or Albert Radford.

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session for 20 minutes for non-elected personnel. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to go into executive session for 20 minutes for non-elected personnel. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

After returning to regular session, Mayor Crowell stated she needs to talk to the crew about fluorescent t-shirts or vests. Also requested that Michelle get a copy of the employee handbook to all council members before the next meeting.

Cynthia Carr made the motion to adjourn. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 6:41pm.

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 City Clerk Mayor