CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 14, 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

**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 added sewer line under Penny Miller and appointment for vacant council seat under new business. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 10, 2024, and the special meetings on July 3, 2024 and July 15, 2024. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Harry Lee expressed concerns about the city clerk unable to answer his question regarding the water line break. He was asked to call the mayor because the clerk had just returned from vacation and was unaware of what took place the week before. Harry thought about calling the mayor but called the clerk back stating, it’s your job to know what is going on in the city. He also shared that Jim Smith is building a home in La Harpe and was told her could not have a temporary electric service in place so he got a generator, Harry asked if that was the city’s policy. Mayor Crowell stated we have always provided temporary service when requested, she asked the crew if they had talked to Mr. Smith and Michelle stated a work order was never requested for temporary service.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Tornado sirens – Clerk, Michelle, shared a letter dated back in 2000 about the sirens showing that La Harpe follows Iola’s protocols. Michelle stated we can sound the alarms ourselves just need to purchase the equipment. Chief Stotler stated the cost was between $500.00 and $800.00. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to not exceed $1,000.00, get what we need for control over the sirens and take the expense out of the general fund. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Vacated Council Seat – Mayor Crowell appointed Angela Barker stating she ran for council on this last election and lost by 3 votes, none of the others submitted ran for the seat. She is a lifelong resident and a mother raising her family here in town. Council members choose not to make a decision until they have time to see the letters of intent from; Kayla Knavel, William Gay, Kendra Michael, Harry Lee, Angela Barker and Rosetta Greathouse. Tabled until September.
2. Whistle at Jefferson and 11th – Ron Knavel had Michelle look into pricing for a bigger whistle and that cost came in at $1,349.48, he believes the city can fix the flooding issue by using 2 15’ whistle, cut one in half and put together with a band. Larry stated it could easily be done and fix the issues we are having. Ron suggested always using concrete on the ends, Larry stated they need to start doing something different because Travis just replaced a few and the ends are already smashed. Larry stated, we have the whistles just need to buy more bands and concrete. Mayor Crowell directed Michelle to write up a work order for it to take place this fall.
3. John Deere Tractor Quote – Mayor Crowell stated we had an issue with the tractor, which has been fixed but it needs to be serviced and the quote to do that is $794.95, I need a motion to get it taken care of. Ron Knavel made the motion to get the tractor serviced. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 3-1 with Danny Ware Jr. opposed.
4. Street Signs – a quote was shared in the amount of $1,992.10 to replace a few street signs and stop signs. Council decided to table until September.
5. #6 Lift Station – A quote was shared to replace a pump in #6, $1,125.22 from HFE Process. Michelle stated that Bruce Boettcher would like to meet with the council Monday, August 19th at 5:30pm to discuss moving forward with the design portion of the sewer upgrade. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to purchase line items 1,2 & 3 and take the money out of sewer. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Council agreed to meeting on Monday, August 19th at 5:30.
6. Tire Quote – 3 quotes were shared to replace the back tires on the spray truck; Ken Pratt Motors- $282.50, JD’s-$330.00 for one brand and $296.00 for the other, and Sigg Tires- $340.00. Larry stated one tire has a hole in the sidewall and won’t hold air very long. Danny Ware Jr. made the motion to go with Ken Pratt Motors. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Larry also stated, the truck has new shocks which made the ride better but we are still having additional front-end issues, he is waiting to hear from Mike Manbeck but wanted the council aware.
7. Advantage Computer Contract – Mayor Crowell shared a copy of the renewal with the council. Cynthia Carr made a motion to accept the contract from Advantage Computer in the amount of $499.00. and take the money out of all 3 departments. 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.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. Penny stated; we have 2 new homes coming in and we don’t have the sewer line needed, we need about 300 feet of line. New Klein Lumbers bid was around $1,300.00, Anderson Plumbing was $1,400.00 and Locke Supply was $1,239.23 and that also included the connectors we will need. Danny Ware Jr suggested she contact Ottawa Winnelson for a quote.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Absent from meeting 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, Matthew Waggoner, Dennis Sidebottom, and Meghan Sparks. Absent were, Bill Gay, Pamela Waggoner and Justin Pritchard. La Harpe firefighters had their meeting, took out the trucks and trained on ladder to 351 unit. Then discussed what we want on our replacement rehab unit then adjourned meeting.
6. Maintenance Department - The workorders were shared. Mayor Crowell stated we only have enough mosquito chemical to do about one and half more sprays, I would like a motion to purchase a barrel, last time it was around $5,500.00 and we can take the money from electric, water and sewer. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to purchase a barrel from Van Diest. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Michelle shared a printout of health insurance options for the council to review and discuss at a latter date. She also shared a J & J authorization letter requesting the bank information for future ACH, after discussion the council choose to leave as is. Michelle also expressed concerns with phone calls that she and some of the staff have been receiving about other employees and she reminded everyone the chain of command starts with the mayor and if she is unavailable then contact the president of the council. It’s not the employee’s responsibility to know what each other are doing besides city business, those concerns need to be directed to the mayor.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Nothing was discussed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT –** File for audit. Cynthia Carr asked if the attorney was paid from the general fund because it was not list on the report. Michell stated, yes $900.00 of his payment comes from the general fund.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Danny Ware Jr made the motion to adjourn. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Adjourned at 8:17 pm.

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City ClerkMayor