CITY OF LA HARPE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 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 (attended by phone @ 7:03pm) Police Chief, Joe Stotler

Ron Knavel Water Rep, Roy Caler

Angela Barker Code & Animal Control, Penny Miller

City Maintenance, Larry Laird

Fire Chief, Marc Waggoner

City Attorney, Fred Works

**Call to order**

Mayor Crowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance with 4 members present. Cynthia Carr attended by phone at 7:03pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the agenda. Angela Barker seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Cynthia Carr attended by phone at 7:03pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 9, 2024 and the special meeting on October 23, 2024, as presented. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Citizen, Tim Farmer, addressed the council asking if the city was losing Joe. Mayor Crowell stated, he turned in his resignation and we can’t keep him if he doesn’t want to stay. Tim stated; there are some good employees in this city, I feel safe living in this city now but to go without a cop is not good at all. This community wants good people, good neighbors and good businesses and we won’t have any of it without a good cop. I am just a very concerned citizen that is trying to help in protecting our city. Mayor Crowell thanked him for sharing his opinion.
2. Tori Riebel with the SEK Health Department attended to introduce herself to the community and to share a few things the health department offers; immunizations, physicals, family planning, WIC, and lots of other sources. She stated they are doing a flu clinic here at city hall tomorrow from 8am to 10am and will also be offering RSV shots as well.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Employee Insurance Benefits – Tabled to December

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. KMEA Solar Project – Neal Daney with KMEA presented the council a project from Ninnescah Flats Solar, stating the city have a couple of contracts coming due in 2027. He shared the solar project will help stabilize the electric rates, he is estimating it to cover about 20% of the city’s energy needs. This solar project is located in Pratt County, about 70 miles west of Wichita. Danny Ware Jr asked who is funding this project. Neal stated a company called NextEra is in charging of building and funding of this project. The council agreed to review the material and make a decision at the December meeting.
2. Kwikom Business Phones – Tabled until December
3. Kennel Fees – Sharlyn Thompson suggested looking at our kennel fees because of the money, food and water we put into it each time we have dogs there. Mayor Crowell asked Penny to check with other cities and see what they charge and bring back in December.
4. Court Costs – Sharlyn Thompson asked how La Harpe compares with other cities. Fred stated, La Harpe is in the middle and wouldn’t recommend raising them at this time. No other action was taken on this matter.
5. Electric Help – Ron Knavel expressed concerns about having someone with knowledge available to help the city. Mayor Crowell stated we have been using Curt Jackson and Jim Baker, with the City of Iola, said we could reach out to him anytime. Ron asked if Curt would help let our employees know what they need. Penny Stated he has been very helpful. Mayor Crowell said the crew has been replacing anything they have used so that we don’t run out.
6. Border States Quote – A quote was shared to buy wire, light fixtures and light eyes from Border states in the amount of $2,228.33. Mayor Crowell suggested Larry get with Jeff Cook on pricing before ordering. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to get the supplies from Border States in the amount of $2,228.33 unless Jeff Cook is cheaper then go through him. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
7. FEMA Money – Joe shared a printout of FEMA money the city has and will be receiving; $11,000.38 went into our working funds for debris removal, $5,642.31 is in our electric upgrade but Michelle noted it was titled incorrectly when first sent and it should be in our sewer fund so need a motion to move to correct account, and we should be receiving $14,471.89 that will go to the electric upgrade fund for damage to utility poles. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to move the money from electric upgrade to the sewer upgrade fund. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Roof Contract – Mayor Crowell stated we do not have any leaks, Travis patched those when he worked here and Penny stated she did not see anything new. Fred suggested we honor the contract next spring, if you withdrawal from the contract now you’ll end up paying more next year. Council agreed to move forward on the roof repair in the spring.
9. Thanksgiving / Christmas Employees – Mayor Crowell stated; last year you made the motion to give full time $150.00 and part time $100.00 with taxes withheld and checks issued December 1st. Danny ware Jr made the motion to do the same thing as last year. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Nothing to report.
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. Mayor Crowell stated we passed our kennel inspection this time, we are still working on the appeal. Penny stated she needs to buy metal buckets instead of rubber or plastic.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the fire meeting minutes; Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Kiefer Endicott, Matthew Waggoner, Dennis Sidebottom, Bill Gay, and Meghan Sparks. Absent were Pamela Waggoner, Ronald Splector and Justin Pritchard. Started meeting, had discussion about hazardous materials on fires and precaution to keep from getting injured, then ended meeting. Danny Ware Jr asked Marc why the fire trucks had no hose on them. Marc stated all the trucks have hoses, some are in the side compartments.
6. Maintenance Department - The workorders were shared. A bid from Pempke’s Tree Service in the amount of $3,500.00 for him to come finish. Michelle stated he could start at the end of November or first part of December. Ron Knavel made the motion to accept the bid. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Michelle shared with the council a letter and invoice that was being sent to the property owner where the tree fell and broke a city pole in half.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into an executive session on non-elected personnel for 40 minutes. Angela Barker made the motion to go into an executive session on non-elected personnel for 40 minutes. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into an executive session for attorney/ client for 60 minutes with Michelle invited. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to go into an executive session for attorney/client for 60 minutes with Michelle invited. Angela Barker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**TREASURER’S REPORT –** Council noted to file for audit but there was not a treasurer’s report presented. October and November’s treasurer report will both be presented at the December 11th meeting.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Angela Barker made the motion to adjourn. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Adjourned at 10:08 pm.

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City ClerkMayor