

City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
June 5, 2014

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on June 5, 2014 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Cheryl J. Lahman; Council Member Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Amy L. Minner; Council Member Charles W. Porter; Council Member Kenneth W. Stubbs; Ruth Peterman, Police Resource Manager; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Council Member Fonda Coleman entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

FY 2014 Revised Budget and FY 2015 Budget

The City Manager stated that the Capital Reserve Fund now includes the Microsoft Exchange Server that was approved earlier in the year.

The City Manager stated that she was in a meeting with Kent County regarding the lagoon closure today. The County wants one lagoon, and the City Engineers are looking at which would be more cost effective to close. The County will maintain the building and the remaining lagoon. Harrington will not be the central receiving station for septic waste haulers as previously discussed.

The City Manager stated that House Bill 333 was on the agenda for the House of Representatives today. House Bill 333 has been delayed until Tuesday; there was another amendment proposed and more meetings will happen. The specific language in many charters, including Harrington's, was removed and replaced with an "all powers" clause. The City Manager stated that municipalities should be given time to change their charters; any new fees or taxes would have to be put into the City's Charter.

The City Manager stated that money was transferred from the capital plan to the operating budget for streets. The calculations for trash were corrected. Mayor

Moyer asked if there is enough in the budget for multiple clean up days. The City Manager stated that there should be enough to add another Saturday.

Vice Mayor Lahman asked about Municipal Street Aid. The City Manager stated that it is not budgeted; there is a separate bank account for it.

Mayor Moyer asked how incoming money is designated to each line item. The City Manager stated that some of it occurs at the cash register and some is done by the Accountant.

Mayor Moyer stated it is much easier to understand the budget than it has been in previous years and that he appreciates all the work put into it.

Mayor Moyer asked about setting aside a certain percentage of money as a rainy day fund. The City Manager stated that it will not be certain what the remaining fund balance is until the audit is complete.

Mayor Moyer stated that the museum is in bad repair. The Historical Society received a grant for six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) and is trying to raise the match for it. Mayor Moyer asked if the City can put some money toward it. The City Manager stated that it can come from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Mayor Moyer stated that the museum needs publicity and to bring younger people to get involved.

Council Member Bivans asked why City Hall has a cleaning service when the Library does not; there are many more people that use the Library.

Council Member Minner asked about including some money in Employee Hiring Costs. The City Manager stated that there will be salary savings if an employee leaves.

Council Member Bivans asked about Wildlife Control. The City Manager stated that it is a cost sharing for maintaining the feral cat management program.

Mayor Moyer stated that the budget is going for approval at the next meeting.

Vice Mayor Lahman asked if the budget is based on a thirty-five cent (\$.35) tax increase that still must be voted on. The City Manager replied yes and stated that the tax increase is included in the fees ordinance that is on the agenda for approval on June 16, 2014. Council Member Minner asked if that is separate. The City Manager stated that it is separate but approving the budget also approves the rates. Mayor Moyer stated that the tax rate has to be approved before the budget.

Council Member Porter asked about an early payment discount. The City Manager stated that it would cost about twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500). In order to recover that amount, an increase of two point two cents (2.2¢) would be needed on the tax rate. Council Member Minner asked if everyone takes advantage of the early payment discount. The City Manager replied no. Mayor Moyer asked about offering an early payment discount for senior citizens only. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that senior citizens can get a discount on their taxes. The City Manager stated that the early payment discount was removed when the cap tax was removed, so it was a wash and taxes did not have to be raised. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the senior discount has to be applied for annually.

Council Comments

Council Member Bivans asked if Public Works is working on potholes; there are a lot of them. The City Manager stated that Public Works will be filling them. Council Member Bivans stated that the manhole on Brown Street needs to be looked at. Council Member Coleman stated that there is a pothole on West Street too. Council Member Minner stated that there is a pothole on Fleming Street too.

Council Member Minner stated that the paving being done on the streets is not good. Mayor Moyer stated that there are millings in storm drains and in people's yards. The City Manager stated that the City Engineer (Tom Wilkes) was inspecting the work today because of the complaints. Mayor Moyer asked if Jerry's Paving was allowed to subcontract the milling to George and Lynch.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council