

City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
October 6, 2014

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on October 6, 2014 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Cheryl J. Lahman; Council Member Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Amy L. Minner; Council Member Charles W. Porter; Council Member Kenneth W. Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Christine Hayward, Library Director; Barbara Bullock; Charles Carr; Jennifer Antonik; State Senator F. Gary Simpson; and Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Glen Howell.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Delaware League of Local Governments' 2014 Police Chief of the Year
Norman Barlow

Vice Mayor Lahman read a proclamation recognizing the Chief of Police as the Delaware League of Local Governments' 2014 Police Chief of the Year and proclaiming October 7, 2014 as Chief Norman Barlow Day in the City of Harrington.

Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Glen Howell presented a check to the Library Director for library reciprocal borrowing excess funds.

State Senator F. Gary Simpson presented the Chief of Police with a commendation from the State Senate.

Mayor Moyer stated that the City was presented a plaque from Special Olympics thanking the City for sponsoring the truck convoy.

[During the City Council Special Meeting later in the evening, State Representative William “Bobby” Outten presented the Chief of Police with a tribute from the State House of Representatives.]

Farmington sewer contract

The City Manager stated that the memorandum of understanding between the City of Harrington and the Town of Farmington was reviewed by the City Solicitor. It says that it is not a contract, even though the City Solicitor states that a memorandum of understanding is a contract. It also states that users in Farmington shall not be individually metered, the pump station will be metered, and the usage divided equally among users, which is how Farmington users are currently billed. There is also a sewer service agreement that was signed by the individual property owners that included the terms.

Council Member Bivans asked about the different dates on the memorandum of understanding and the sewer service agreement. The City Solicitor stated that he believes the process began in 1995 and was completed in 1999.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that she asked that the Farmington contract be reviewed since the City is now being billed on usage and questioned the businesses raising the costs for the residents. The City Manager stated that there is one gas station in town and the fire company.

Mayor Moyer asked if anyone has been arrested for theft of service for connecting to the sewer line without permission. The City Manager replied not to her knowledge. The Chief of Police stated that it would be the State Police’s jurisdiction.

The City Manager stated that the contract is actually with the user and not the Town. Council Member Bivans stated that it is hard to believe that the contract is binding based on the different dates and changes that have been made since the agreements were signed.

The City Manager stated that the City needed money to work on the sewer treatment plant and DNREC was requesting that the City provide sewer service to Farmington. The contracts are with the individual users; the Town of Farmington was not able to bill its residents. The USDA provided funding and the City is still paying debt service on the project to expand to Farmington.

Mayor Moyer asked if the contract stays with the property if it is sold or transferred. The City Solicitor stated yes, the sewer service information should be included in any transfer.

Council Member Porter asked that the City Solicitor clarify the language on the contract for the users. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the City should be sure

that everyone that is connected to the sewer is paying their share. The City Manager stated that the City Solicitor is pursuing legal action for those that are not paying their bill.

Yard award

Mayor Moyer stated that a yard award has been discussed in order to encourage the beautification of the City.

Council Member Stubbs stated that there was a program before that a previous City Manager ran.

Council Member Minner suggested seeing what other towns have as yard award programs, such as Milford.

Council Member Bivans suggested looking at other options that are more engaging for all residents. Mayor Moyer stated that maintenance is more important than the amount of money spent on the yard.

Council Member Coleman stated that an award could be given for holiday decorations.

Mayor Moyer asked that the Council Members consider it and bring back ideas for discussion at the next workshop.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council