

City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Meeting
December 15, 2014

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

A meeting of the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on December 15, 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 Charles W. Porter; Council Member Kenneth W. Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Albert Biddle, Kent County Department of Planning Services; Christine Hayward, Library Director; Bobby Outten; Barbara Bullock; Charles Carr; and Jennifer Antonik.

Council Member Amy L. Minner and Teresa Tieman, City Manager, were absent.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Bivans.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll was called.

Presentation of Resolution 14-R-06 to State Senator F. Gary Simpson, State Representative William R. "Bobby" Outten, State Representative David L. Wilson, and Kent County Commissioner Glen M. Howell

Mayor Moyer read and presented Resolution 14-R-06 to State Representative William R. "Bobby" Outten and State Representative David L. Wilson.

Mayor Moyer stated that State Senator F. Gary Simpson and Kent County Commissioner Glen M. Howell will attend a future meeting to be presented with the resolution.

Public Hearing on City of Harrington's request to apply for funds under the Community Development Block Grant for 2015

Albert Biddle stated that the program year begins July 1, 2015. The Delaware State Housing Authority priority is for rehabilitation of owner occupied housing. Harrington has benefited from small infrastructure projects in the past such as sidewalk repairs, street repairs, drainage improvements, water meters, and some demolitions. In 2014, Harrington received seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to rehabilitate four houses. There is a waiting list of about fifteen houses for rehabilitation. The income limits for a one person household is thirty-six thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$36,250) and for a four person household is fifty-one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$51,750). The County is always accepting applications and works on a first come, first served basis.

Council Member Bivans asked if eligibility is strictly based on income. Mr. Biddle stated that there are other criteria such as owning and living in the home, maintaining homeowner's insurance, and assessments must be current. The applicant must be eligible at the time the funds are applied for, not to be put on the waiting list.

Council Member Porter stated that the City should take more control of how the program money is spent. The City would know better who is needy. Mr. Biddle stated that the City can decide on the projects if they'd like.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Bivans requested that the Police Chief's Report, City Manager's Report, Public Works Departmental Report, and City Planner's Report be removed from the consent agenda.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to approve the consent agenda. Roll was called on the motion to approve the consent agenda: 4 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent (Lahman – Yes, Bivans – Yes, Coleman – Yes, Minner – Absent, Porter – No, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed by majority.

The following agenda items were approved with the consent agenda:

- November 3, 2014 City Council Workshop Minutes
- November 17, 2014 City Council Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
- Public Works Departmental Report
- Library Departmental Report
- Parks and Recreation Departmental Report
- Fire and Ambulance Departmental Report
- City Engineer's Report

Police Chief's Report

Council Member Bivans asked about the study on the alleys in Harrington Manor. The Chief of Police stated that the speed and counter were consistent and do not warrant speed bumps or stop signs. There were eight to nine cars a day on the alley. Most of the people along the alley did not want speed bumps. The Chief of Police thanked DeIDOT for their help.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Bivans, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to approve the Police Chief's Report as presented. The MOTION passed unanimously.

City Manager's Report

Council Member Bivans asked about 17-19 Commerce Street being condemned. Mayor Moyer stated that a couple of bricks had fallen onto the sidewalk; the barricades were place to protect anyone walking on the sidewalk. The property owner is required to have an engineer examine the property. The brick has been repointed to prevent more bricks from falling off the building. Remington, Vernick, and Beach did a cursory examination of the building, and it is not in danger of imminent collapse.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Bivans, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to approve the City Manager's Report as presented. The MOTION passed by majority. Council Member Porter voted against the motion.

Council Member Porter asked the City Solicitor if the point of the consent agenda was to talk to the City Manager or Chief of Police to have any questions answered before it comes to the City Council. The City Solicitor stated that any member of Council can remove an item from the consent agenda for any reason. Mayor Moyer stated that the consent agenda does still move things along.

Public Works Departmental Report

Council Member Bivans requested a priority list for street blacktopping and stated that there are still a lot of potholes.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to approve the Public Works Departmental Report as presented. The MOTION passed by majority. Council Member Porter voted against the motion.

City Planner's Report

Council Member Bivans stated that there is no report to approve but a copy of an email was included in packets stating that there would be a report for the

meeting. The Clerk of Council stated that she did not receive the City Planner's Report.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to accept the correspondence that there is no City Planner's Report. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Resolution 14-R-07 – Authorizing the Mayor to submit the FY 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and the Levy Court of Kent Count to act as the official representatives

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to dispense with the reading of Resolution 14-R-07. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Member Bivans stated that this should be discussed at Workshop unless there is a time constraint. Mayor Moyer stated that the resolution is a formality and procedural changes can be made at any point. Mr. Biddle stated that even the distribution of the current year's fund can be changed if the City Council wants.

Mr. Biddle state that there are enough houses on the waiting list to support an application for one hundred eight thousand dollars (\$108,000). It is unlikely the City will receive that much money though. The Delaware State Housing Authority rank every application from Kent and Sussex County before awarding funds.

The City Solicitor stated that he does not recommend that the City take over the administration of the program, because it will require staff time.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Porter, to accept Resolution 14-R-07. Roll was called: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Lahman – Yes, Bivans – Yes, Coleman – Yes, Minner – Absent, Porter – Yes, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-08 – Supporting the goals of the Federal Fair Housing Law

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Porter, to dispense with the reading of Resolution 14-R-08. The MOTION passed unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to accept Resolution 14-R-08. Roll was called: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Lahman – Yes, Bivans – Yes, Coleman – Yes, Minner – Absent, Porter – Yes, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 14-17 – Amending Chapter 180, Municipal Fees, to change the Public Works hourly rate and sewer service charges

The Clerk of Council stated that this ordinance changes the in-City sewer rate so that users with sewer meters are charged the same rate as users without sewer meters; it also removes the Kent County fee from the out-of-City sewer rate, which is listed separately.

Council Member Coleman asked about the Public Works Service Fee. The Clerk of Council stated that the rate had been fifty dollars (\$50) and was changed to twenty-two dollars (\$22) in July; fifty dollars is a more accurate rate, because it includes costs such as insurance.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to accept the first reading of Ordinance 14-17. The MOTION passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 14-18 – Amending Chapter 330, Sewers, to remove the rate classification for in-City users with individual sewer meters

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to suspend the reading of Ordinance 14-18. The MOTION passed unanimously.

The Clerk of Council stated that this ordinance removes the differentiation between in-City users with and without sewer meters.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to accept the first reading of Ordinance 14-18. The MOTION passed unanimously.

January 2, 2015 extra holiday

The Chief of Police stated that the day after New Year's Day is a Friday. Mayor Moyer stated that in lieu of leaving early on New Year's Eve, the

offices can be closed on January 2. Council Member Porter stated that there will still be Public Works and Police coverage. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that it costs money to open up for the one day as well.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to grant January 2, 2015 as a day off for employees. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Approval of part time Library Clerk

The Library Director stated that she would like to hire Michelle Willet as the part time Library Clerk; she has experience with Kent County.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Porter, to approve the hiring of Michelle Willet as a part time Library Clerk. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Barbara Bullock asked where the ordinances that had a first reading tonight were posted. The Clerk of Council stated that they were included in packets, which are posted on the City's website. City Hall can be called if there is a problem or question about the packet.

City Council Comments

There were no City Council Comments.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business, a MOTION was made by Council Member Coleman, seconded by Council Member Porter, to adjourn the City Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council