

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Meeting
April 20, 2015**

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

A meeting of the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on April 20, 2015 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; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: M. Jean Miller; Joyce Dyer; Viva Poore; Barbara Bullock; Charles Carr; Eric Marquis; Jennifer Antonik; and Marie Cunningham.

Council Member Fonda Coleman was 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.

Minutes

Council Member Minner stated that a correction needs to be made on the March 16, 2015 City Council Meeting Minutes; the count on the roll call vote on page six should read "2 No."

Council Member Bivans stated that the City Council had discussed lowering costs, not giving a rebate. Council Member Porter stated that the City Council agreed to look at the rates after a year.

Council Member Bivans requested clarification on whether the City Council had previously granted authority to the City Manager to make purchases under five hundred dollars (\$500) without the City Council's consent. The City Solicitor

stated that a sentence could be added to the minutes on page five stating that he could find no evidence of that.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Minner, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to approve the March 2, 2015 City Council Meeting minutes as presented and March 16, 2015 City Council Meeting minutes as amended. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Council Member Bivans asked why grass mowing for the same property would cost different amounts on different days. The Accountant stated that is what the invoice stated. The City Manager stated that something different could have been done; the invoices would have to be examined.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Porter, to file the Financial Report for audit. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Resolution 15-R-02 – Adopting a list of other debts owed to the City of Harrington to be added to tax bills and setting forth the procedure for appeals

Mayor Moyer read Resolution 15-R-02.

Council Member Bivans asked if the list could be posted in alphabetical order by name.

Council Member Porter asked what the cost is to seek payment of these charges. The City Solicitor stated that the amounts are added to the tax bills, so if the taxes are paid in full then it really does not cost anything. If the tax bill becomes two years in arrears then a monition sale will be held, and those cost are collected from the sale.

Council Member Minner asked if the property owners have been notified. The City Manager replied that they have multiple times and the posting itself serves as notification.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Porter, to adopt Resolution 15-R-02. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-03 – Opposing truck size and weight increases

Mayor Moyer read Resolution 15-R-03.

The City Manager stated that the City's roads are not designed to handle this kind of load. The Chief of Police stated that it is a safety issue too.

Council Member Bivans asked if this would impact FedEx or UPS trucks.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to adopt Resolution 15-R-03. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-04 – USDA funding for inflow and infiltration repairs

The Clerk of Council read Resolution 15-R-04.

The City Manager stated that the State is looking into refinancing the City's debt. The City Council was going to use reserve funds to pay for inflow and infiltration repairs. The USDA has offered a grant to the City. Money will also be saved on the Kent County sewer treatment bill.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the City should commit to paying at least a portion of the loan out of reserves.

Council Member Stubbs stated that eliminating inflow and infiltration also gets back capacity. Building new costs more than maintaining the current.

Vice Mayor Lahman asked if the money would complete repairs in quadrants one and two. The City Manager replied yes, and it will go to studying quadrants three and four as well.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Lahman, seconded by Council Member Minner, to adopt Resolution 15-R-04. The MOTION passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 15-04 – Amending Chapter 180, Municipal Fees

The City Manager stated that this ordinance will add a fine for failing to get a rental inspection. After several attempts, some property owners are still not scheduling inspections.

Discussion occurred on the procedure for inspections and fining for failing to obtain a rental inspection.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Vice Mayor Lahman, to accept the First Reading of Ordinance 15-04. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Transfer Tax

Council Member Porter stated that he received many phone calls regarding this issue; the full truth of where these purchases are being funded from is not being told to the public, and there are a lot of misconceptions. The CIP fund is not budgeted money.

Council Member Bivans stated that the City needs to be frugal with all money it receives, no matter what the source is. Council Member Porter stated that the items that are requested are needed.

Mayor Moyer stated that the Code Enforcement car stopped working today. Not all of the extraordinary income is being spent. Used equipment costs money to repair, so there are benefits to buying new. The money for the Library is a small investment in a big project.

The Chief of Police stated that options for the car and security systems were looked at and are under the State contract.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated the City Manager and Chief of Police are hired to manage the daily operations of the City. City Council should not micromanage.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to approve the purchase of a car up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), to approve the allocation of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the Library Fund, and for the bids for the security cameras to be presented to the City Council. Roll was called: 4 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent (Lahman – Yes, Bivans – No, Coleman – Absent, Minner – Yes, Porter – Yes, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed by majority.

Dedication of Parks and Recreation building to William (Bill) Falasco

Vice Mayor Lahman suggest a plaque could be added to the building and stated that Donald Porter was instrumental in starting Harrington Parks and Recreation. Mayor Moyer stated that the plaque could list multiple names.

The City Manager stated that Harrington should be very proud of all Parks and Recreation was able to accomplish with little money.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to add a plaque to the Parks and Recreation building to recognize those that have contributed to the Parks and Recreation program. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Marie Cunningham stated that Linda Chick and two other volunteers started Harrington Parks and Recreation. Thank you for the allocation to the Library. Cameras would aid the staff of the Library.

Barbara Bullock stated that transparency is important and more communication is needed.

City Council Comments

Council Member Porter stated that a letter was received requesting donations for a student from Lake Forest High School that wants to compete in a national business competition. Mayor Moyer stated that it is important for the community to support outstanding young people. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that if the City is going to consider giving donations then there should be a line item in the budget for it and criteria established. Council Member Porter stated that CIP could be used for donations.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business, a MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Minner, to adjourn the City Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council