

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
April 4, 2016**

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on April 4, 2016 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Eric Marquis; 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: Darrin Simpson; and Jennifer Antonik, The (Harrington) Journal.

Council Member Amy Minner was absent.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Employee of the quarter

Mayor Moyer stated that there are too few employees to have an employee of the quarter. Council Member Porter stated that he would rather have an employee of the year.

Transfer tax exemption for first time home buyers

The City Manager stated that the Builder and Developer Committee recommended a transfer tax exemption for first time home buyers.

Council Member Porter asked how much revenue would be lost. The City Manager stated there would not be significant and that the transfer tax money is not budgeted.

Council Member Porter stated that the State is considering taking transfer tax money away from municipalities.

The City Manager stated that there were about 5 houses sold last year in the city.

Council Member Porter asked what will contractors do to encourage first time home buyers. Darrin Simpson stated that reducing the transfer tax is a good incentive for buyers and advertising for realtors. Sellers sometimes offer buyers help with closing costs.

Council Member Porter stated that it will encourage home ownership rather than renting. Council Member Stubbs stated that it is a good incentive.

Charter change to allow for debt refinance without voter approval

Mayor Moyer stated that referendums cost money and this change would allow debt to be refinanced without a referendum if it saves money.

The City Manager stated that another change is increasing the limit on the loan term from thirty (30) years to forty (40) years, which is the amount of time the USDA uses for its loans.

Council Member Porter stated that the House and Senate will be on board.

Council Member Coleman stated that the City will still need to let the public know when money is being borrowed.

Ordinance 16-03 – Adding Chapter 240, Juvenile Curfew, to establish a juvenile curfew

The Chief of Police stated that times of complaints with juveniles varied over three years. Mayor Moyer stated that the majority were after 11:00 p.m. Council Member Porter stated that there were five complaints in three months in 2016.

Mayor Moyer asked how many juveniles were victims during the curfew hours. The Chief of Police stated that he does not have that information. Council Member Marquis stated that kids need to be protected too.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that the start of the curfew should be at 10:00 p.m. every day of the week.

Council Member Coleman stated that she is concerned about the cost of the fines. Mayor Moyer stated that fines are needed to hold parents responsible if they continue to allow kids out. Council Member Coleman stated that peer pressure can make it hard for a parent to make a child listen to them.

Discussion occurred regarding removing or reducing the financial penalties and making the curfew temporary.

Council Member Stubbs asked what tools police officers use now to stop youths. The Chief of Police stated that officers can do a crime prevention check where they stop someone and ask their name.

Council Member Marquis reviewed Felton's curfew ordinance.

Mayor Moyer stated that having the curfew in place is more important than the fines.

Council Member Coleman stated that the people in Harrington need to build relations to see a different side of a child and talk to the kids.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that some sort of fee needs to be in place in case it is needed. The ordinance allows for warnings before a fine is issued. Vice Mayor Bivans suggested a floating fee schedule.

Council Member Coleman stated that a few years ago, it was said that a curfew was not needed and that there was not data to support it.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council