

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Meeting
April 18, 2016**

Open Forum

The City Chaplain stated that the National Day of Prayer will be held at the Harrington Fire Hall on May 5 and asked that that the alley by his house between Center and Gordon Streets be scraped and stone placed.

Robert Dean Helsel stated that the curfew is a good idea.

A meeting of the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on April 18, 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 Amy 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: Tom Wilkes, Remington, Vernick, and Beach, City Engineer; Christine Hayward, Harrington Public Library; Marleena Scott, Harrington Public Library; Aubrey Brown, City Chaplain; William Brode; Barbara Bullock; Jeff Scott; Robert Dean Helsel; and Jennifer Antonik, Harrington Journal.

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

The Invocation was given by the City Chaplain.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll was called.

Harrington Fire Company

Ralph Tucker stated that there were twenty-nine (29) fire alarms last month and over a hundred EMS calls. The annual crab feast will be June 18, 2016, and there is an open house for the state fire chiefs June 23, 2016. The fire prevention pageant will be June 12, 2016.

Minutes

[The March 23, 2016 City Council Workshop minutes were not presented.]

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2016 City Council Workshop, March 7, 2016 City Council Special Meeting, and March 21, 2016 City Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Council Member Porter asked if this report will be needed for the budget meeting.

Council Member Minner asked for an itemized list of what items are budgeted to each department and for a list tracking the first-time home buyer transfer tax exemptions.

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

Old Business

Public Hearing

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

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Minner, to dispense with the reading of Ordinance 16-03. The MOTION passed unanimously.

There were no comments from the public.

Ordinance 16-04 – Amending Chapter 378, Taxation, to add a transfer tax exemption for first-time home buyers

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Minner, to dispense with the reading of Ordinance 16-04. The MOTION passed unanimously.

There were no comments from the public.

Second Reading of Ordinance 16-03 – Adding Chapter 240, Curfew, to establish a juvenile curfew

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to dispense with the reading of Ordinance 16-03. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Member Porter asked about the expiration of the curfew. The Clerk of Council stated that a section had been added that states that the curfew expires on July 31, 2016.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that he thinks the curfew should be set at one time all week long.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Marquis, seconded by Council Member Minner, to set the curfew at 10:00 p.m. every day of the week. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Member Minner asked what time the curfew would expire. The City Solicitor replied midnight.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Bivans, seconded by Council Member Marquis, to accept Ordinance 16-03 as amended. Roll was called: 6 Yes, 0 No (Bivans – Yes, Coleman – Yes, Marquis – Yes, Minner – Yes, Porter – Yes, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed unanimously.

Second Reading of Ordinance 16-04 – Amending Chapter 378, Taxation, to add a transfer tax exemption for first-time home buyers

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Minner, to suspend the reading of Ordinance 16-04. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Mayor Moyer stated that this exemption was proposed by the Builder and Developer Committee.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Minner, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to accept Ordinance 16-04. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Harrington Public Library site

The City Manager stated that while reviewing a site for the library, another site across the street was brought to the City's attention. The engineers estimate a savings of about one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in stormwater management costs.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to allow the City Manager to investigate this property.

Council Member Minner stated that the site should be reviewed by the Library Site Selection Committee before the City Council considers it.

Council Member Porter withdrew his MOTION.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to send the property to the Library Site Selection Committee for review. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Member Porter stated that the committee should meet soon, because this site could lead to big savings.

New Business

Resolution 16-R-08 – 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

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to dispense with the reading of Resolution 16-R-08. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked if the same collection methods are used for the smaller balances as the larger amounts. The City Manager replied yes.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Marquis, to accept Resolution 16-R-08. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund for sewer improvements

The City Manager stated that this project will expand the sewer system in areas that are close to or over capacity now as identified by a study that has already been done. The State Revolving Loan Fund will lend the City one million four hundred sixty-two thousand nine hundred twenty-five dollars (\$1,462,925) for construction purposes to complete the improvements and will then provide three hundred six thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$306,120) of principal forgiveness. Then the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide a grant and loan package to refinance the remaining State loan balance.

The City Engineer stated that a study was done in 2012-2013 to identify the undersized pipes. Council Member Stubbs stated that the pipes are also very old. The City Engineer stated that Dorman Street was the most critical and has been corrected.

Discussion occurred regarding issues on Hanley Street.

Council Member Minner asked about water projects. The City Manager stated that the City is working on getting agreements in place.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to proceed with seeking financing for sewer improvements through the Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund. Roll was called: 6 Yes, 0 No (Bivans – Yes, Coleman – Yes, Marquis – Yes, Minner – Yes, Porter – Yes, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 16-05 – Amending Chapter 180, Municipal Fees, to add fines for violating the Juvenile Curfew Chapter

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that he would like the fine for a parent providing false information reduced from two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). Mayor Moyer stated that is a serious offense. Vice Mayor Bivans stated that the other fines for parents have been lowered.

Discussion occurred regarding parents providing false information.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Minner, seconded by a Council Member Marquis, to accept the first reading of Ordinance 16-05 as presented. Roll was called: 6 Yes, 0 No (Bivans – Yes, Coleman – Yes, Marquis – Yes, Minner – Yes, Porter – Yes, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 16-06 – Adopting Downtown Development District Plan

Mayor Moyer read Ordinance 16-06.

The Clerk of Council stated that the public hearing and second reading for this ordinance are scheduled for May 9, 2016.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Marquis, seconded by Council Member Porter, to accept the first reading of Ordinance 16-06. The MOTION passed by majority. Council Member Minner abstained since she was not present for the presentation of the Downtown Development District Plan.

Public Comments

William Brode suggested community service in lieu of curfew fines.

Barbara Bullock asked if curfew fines can be added onto tax bills. The City Solicitor stated that they are criminal fines collected by the JP court.

The City Chaplain stated that there was a lot of discussion held over reducing a fine by fifty dollars (\$50).

City Council Comments

Council Member Minner stated that she has seen a lot of tall grass.

Council Member Marquis stated that LeRoy Lahman from Public Works saved a cat from a tree.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked that the City Manager provide an update on collections from Chesapeake Utilities. The City Manager stated that the City has accepted the amount that Chesapeake Utilities offered, and they should be cutting a check soon. The franchise agreement will be presented to the City Council soon.

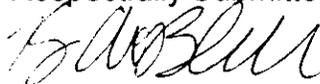
Vice Mayor Bivans stated that it is important for the City Council to thoroughly discuss issues presented to them.

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 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council