

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Special Meeting
May 18, 2016**

A meeting with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on May 18, 2016 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Eric Marquis; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Charles W. Porter; Council Member Kenneth W. Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Barbara Bullock; and Jennifer Antonik, The (Harrington) Journal.

Council Member Fonda Coleman entered the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll was called.

Resolution 16-R-14 – Adopting a revised FY 2016 Budget and FY 2017 Budget

Council Member Porter asked what is being revised in the FY 2016 Budget. Council Member Marquis stated that it is being revised to match what was actually spent during the year.

Council Member Minner asked about the Fire Department fuel reimbursement. The Accountant stated that there was an increase for FY 2016 because of a one-time payment.

Council Member Minner asked about the decrease in the amount of water and sewer loan payments. The Accountant stated that the debt refinancing reduced payments.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Marquis, seconded by Council Member Minner, to adopt the revised FY 2016 budget and to amend the FY 2017 budget to remove the pay increases for the City Manager and Chief of Police and give them a bonus of two percent (2%) to match the rest of the City employees.

Council Member Porter stated that the current salaries for the City Manager and Chief of Police are not close to comparable to other towns. The City Manager has saved the City a million dollars (\$1,000,000) in debt service and had lots of

accomplishments, including City Manager of the Year. She also does not use the City's insurance, which saves the City sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000).

Council Member Marquis stated that both the City Manager and Chief of Police do a fine job for the City. There was a huge rate increase within the last two years and reserves are being used to fund part of the salary increases. Council Member Marquis stated that he does not agree that the majority of the work the City Manager does is for sewer and water.

Council Member Porter stated that the City Council has been good gatekeepers of the unrestricted reserves so that money is available to be used to fund a planner and an additional police officer.

Council Member Porter stated that the Chief of Police has won Police Chief of the Year and has gone above his duties to save money for the entire City.

Council Member Stubbs stated that the current City Council has inherited a lot of problems, but since the current City Manager has been in place, there has been progress on fixing problems. There has been a lot of money saved by fixing inflow and infiltration. The ability to plan five years out can be attributed to the City Manager. Council Member Stubbs stated that he would hate to lose either the Chief of Police or the City Manager.

Council Member Minner stated that she has not seen such a substantial raise given to anyone and that has to be justified to the citizens. Council Member Porter stated that the savings that the City has realized justify the increases. The City Manager has saved one million dollars (\$1,000,000). Council Member Stubbs stated that the Chief of Police got equipment for the City to remove snow.

Council Member Porter stated that he is not in favor of giving the employees a bonus instead of a raise, because it does not help with their retirement. The police officers are contractual, and the bonus instead of a raise could be an issue. Council Member Marquis stated that Council Member Porter proposed the budget that included the bonus. Council Member Porter stated that the Mayor preferred the bonus.

Roll was call on the motion to adopt the revised FY 2016 budget and to amend the FY 2017 budget to remove the pay increases for the City Manager and Chief of Police and give them a bonus of two percent (2%) to match the rest of the City employees: 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain, 1 Absent (Bivans – Yes, Coleman – Absent, Marquis – Yes, Minner – Yes, Porter – Abstain, Stubbs – Abstain). The MOTION passed by majority.

Discussion occurred during the vote on the police officers' contract, the two percent (2%) bonus for employees, and having the City Solicitor present at all meetings.

Council Member Coleman entered the meeting at 6:55 p.m. during the roll call vote after her vote was marked as absent.

Council Member Porter and Council Member Stubbs abstained from voting because the City Solicitor was not present. Vice Mayor Bivans stated that reason is out of order.

Public Comments

Jennifer Antonik stated that she would appreciate if the members of council did not talk to her during the meeting.

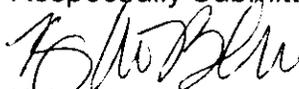
Barbara Bullock stated that she does not understand the raises for the City Manager and Chief of Police and that infrastructure problems have existed for a long time.

City Council Comments

Council Member Porter stated that City had tried to pass a referendum to make infrastructure improvements, but it did not pass. The City of Harrington had one of the lowest tax rates for a long time.

There being no further business, a MOTION was made by Council Member Minner, seconded by Council Member Marquis, to adjourn the City Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council