

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
October 3, 2016**

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on October 3, 2016 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Charles W. Baugher, Jr.; Council Member Robert Dean Helsel; Council Member Eric Marquis; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Micah Parker; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Alan Moore, Public Works Supervisor; Barbara Bullock; Rich Wong; and Pack 79 Webelos.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Spending money on funeral/get well flowers

Council Member Marquis stated that it is fiscally irresponsible to be using taxpayer funding for anything that does not directly affect the City. The Delaware Code does not allow for spending on gratuities, greeting cards, flowers, or tickets to athletic events that are unrelated to the agencies functions. Council Member Marquis stated that anything that does not directly pertain to the operation of the City should not be purchased with taxpayer funds.

Council Member Helsel asked what line item this is on the budget. The City Manager replied community events.

Council Member Helsel stated that the cost is eight cents (\$.08) per person. It is very important to take care of employees. Council Member Marquis stated that the Council Members as employers should take care of the employees.

Council Member Marquis stated that if the purchase does not directly affect taxpayers then do not spend tax money on it and ask for donations instead.

Mayor Moyer stated that many years ago there was an employee fund. The Public Works Supervisor explained the program. The Chief of Police stated that it stopped because of abuse.

Council Member Minner stated that the employee luncheons are usually pot luck.

Mayor Moyer stated that the morale of the employees is more important than the one thousand dollars (\$1,000) spent over three years.

Council Member Parker asked if community events are paid from taxpayer money. Mayor Moyer stated that it depends on the event and asked if the City would stop having parades and community events.

Council Member Helsel stated that he is concerned that the donations will come from the same few employees all the time, which would be unfair. Council Member Minner stated that the employees at the County collect donations for cards and flowers.

Mayor Moyer asked if the Council Members are willing to donate fifty dollars (\$50) to start a fund. Council Member Marquis stated no because he does not want it to be abused; he will make a donation when called and asked to do so. Mayor Moyer stated that Council Members do not work in the City, and this is a time sensitive issue. Council Member Marquis disagreed that it is time sensitive.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that taxpayers elected the Council Members to make decisions and be good stewards of tax money and that the public would be concerned if flowers were not being given for life changing events to those that have made contributions to the City. The City needs guidelines for spending.

Council Member Helsel suggested a slush fund from Council Member donations with a policy on how to spend it.

Council Member Parker stated that he is concerned about other things being eliminated and that the Council is spending a lot of time on this issue.

Paving alleys

The City Manager stated that Public Works is working on a map to know what alleys are used and which are paper alleys. If an alley is only used by the residents that live along that alley, then it should not be paved. Paving is expensive.

Mayor Moyer suggested that if alleys are not used, then they should be relinquished to the property owners. They are a liability to the City.

Council Member Helsel asked if there is a cheaper solution than paving. The Public Works Supervisor stated that crush and run or millings can be used.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that it should be considered if the alley is a means of egress, safety (fire truck access), and if it is overgrown with trees when considering if it should be paved. Council Member Helsel stated that the Fire Company does sometimes use alleys to access properties.

Council Member Marquis asked if there are grants available for paving alleys. The City Manager stated that she is not aware of any street grants available for alleys.

Council Member Minner stated that some property owners with paper alleys would like the alleyway improved.

Proposed changes to Chapter 440, Zoning, to allow corner lots under 7,500 square feet to have only one front yard

Mayor Moyer stated that this is a recommendation from the Builder and Developer Committee. This change would allow a corner property to match the front setbacks of neighboring properties.

Council Member Baugher asked if this is just for new construction and stated that there is a lot involved with water, sewer, and gas lines for houses that are rebuilt.

Council Member Minner stated that this would apply to existing lots. The Clerk of Council stated that this applies to lots under seven thousand five hundred (7,500) square feet; any new lots created would not be under seven thousand five hundred (7,500) square feet.

Council Member Minner stated that she is concerned about the possibility of new lots receiving a variance to be under seven thousand five hundred (7,500) square feet. The City Solicitor stated that wording can be added so that it only applies to existing lots from a certain date. He suggested adding wording like "for corner lots laid out prior to 1992."

Public Comments

Barbara Bullock stated that she agrees with not spending money on flowers, that she does not use an alley, and that paved alleys have to be plowed.

City Council Comments

Mayor Moyer stated that he appreciates Public Works cleaning stormwater drains. The ditches outside of the City limits have not been cleared and they back up. He intends to pursue action at the State level to get work done on the ditches.

Mayor Moyer thanked the Cub Scouts for attending the meeting. Cub Scout Leader Andy Ridgy introduced the Scouts and stated that one of their requirements is to attend a public meeting.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked that street signs be updated. The City Manager stated that Public Works is working on a list of signs that are needed and that she will put together a program and budget for it.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked about paving all of Hanley Street. The City Manager stated that the estimate was over four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000); the sidewalks are below the road; the whole road will need to be reconstructed. Vice Mayor Bivans asked what impact that will have on drainage. The Public Works Supervisor stated that it should have a positive impact on drainage. Mayor Moyer stated that flooding used to occur around the bank. The Public Works Supervisor stated that a basin was added to help the flooding.

Mayor Moyer stated that he is opposed to spending money on alleys when there are streets in need of repair.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that there are trees overhanging sidewalks and streets. Mayor Moyer stated that is a code enforcement issue.

Council Member Baugher stated that he would like the City to look into adding lights to darker areas, which is a safety issue. Mayor Moyer stated that some of the lights probably need to be replaced. The City Manager stated that the City can have four lights replaced a year.

Council Member Marquis stated that he would like to be included on any meeting about ditches and asked for an update on the police officer in the academy. The Chief of Police stated that he is doing well.

Council Member Parker asked if cleaning ditches will help the flooding on Mispillion. The Public Works Supervisor replied yes.

Council Member Parker asked about helping the elderly with home improvements. The City Manager stated that they can contact Kent County who administers the Community Development Block Grant.

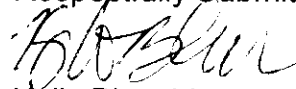
Council Member Minner thanked the Public Works Supervisor for attending and asked about the City Council making a float for the Christmas parade.

Mayor Moyer stated that tomorrow night is the Christmas Club meeting if anyone would like to attend. They raise money to hold the Christmas party and donate to the Food Pantry.

Council Member Minner reminded the Council of Emergency Services Night which is October 6, 2016 at the fire hall. Council Member Helsel stated that the Fire Company and Police Department are both participating, and it will be a big event.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Blanchies".

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council