

City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Meeting
August 20, 2012

Public Comments

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that she would like to apologize to anyone who received a phone call to comment on the article in the newspaper. She thanked people for their support and will talk to anyone that has questions.

Gerry Bloodsworth asked when the City will begin reading meters and asked what is being done with the old meters that residents bought. The City Manager stated all meters should be installed by the end of the month and readings start soon after that; billing based on readings will probably not begin until next July. She stated that will give the City time to calculate a fair rate and residents time to monitor their consumption. The old meters will be salvaged, and the revenue returned to the account used to purchase the new meters.

Ms. Bloodsworth asked if the City is on the County sewer system and if the bill will go down. The City Manager stated that the City is using the County to treat wastewater, and until water is metered to estimate sewer usage, the sewer bills are not certain.

There being no further comments, Vice Mayor Lahman closed the Public Comments segment.

A meeting of the Harrington City Council was held on August 20, 2012 and was attended by the following: Vice Mayor Cheryl Lahman; Council Member Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Wayne Porter; Council Member Kenneth Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Faye Smith, Finance Director; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Noel Primos attended in place of William Pepper, City Solicitor.

Also present: Tom Wilkes, Remington, Vernick, & Beach; Frank Tolson; Jack Stewart; Todd Collison; and Gerry Bloodsworth.

Mayor Robert E. Price, Jr. was absent.

Vice Mayor Lahman called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes

City Council Meeting August 6, 2012

Council Member Bivans stated that in the first paragraph on page 6, Mayor Price's statement is not clear and should be amended from "so expensive" to "should be less expensive."

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Minner, to accept the August 6, 2012 City Council Meeting Minutes as amended. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Police Chief's Report

The Chief of Police stated that the car from drug seizure has been sold, the department is still working with the LESO program, and National Night Out was a big success.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Stubbs, seconded by Council Member Porter, to accept the Police Chief's Report as presented. The MOTION passed unanimously.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager stated that next year the Code Enforcement Officer will be sending out information about what the standards are to be more proactive.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Minner, to accept the City Manager's Report as presented. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Financial Report

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

Departmental Reports

Public Works

The City Manager stated that there are about ninety meters left to install. Public Works have done an outstanding job and has also completed a lot of patching.

Council Member Bivans asked if the street sweeping schedule is advertised. The Clerk of Council stated that she believes the schedule is posted on the City's website.

Council Member Stubbs stated that he thought Rio Supply was supposed to help install water meters. The City Manager stated that they did assist for some time, but the Public Works crew was able to do the installations, so it was easier than waiting for the availability of Rio Supply. Council Member Stubbs stated that he thought it was part of the contract. The City Manager stated that she will check on it. Tom Wilkes stated that Rio Supply committed to helping with the installation but is unsure if that was just for a month or so or for the duration of the project.

Council Member Minner asked if the City knows what the gallons are for the emergency well. The City Manager stated that the emergency well was being used, but it was pulling up sand. Council Member Stubbs stated that it is at least a million gallons.

Wastewater Treatment

There were no questions.

Library

The City Manager stated that the Library will have a job center starting on Friday, September 7. The State is providing the equipment that the Library will get to keep. She stated that the Library also wanted to thank the Chief of Police for the bookcases and chairs.

Council Member Bivans asked if the job center is for any age group. The City Manager stated that it is for anyone looking for a job. The program has been successful at other libraries. Council Member Minner asked how it will be advertised. The City Manager stated that it can be put on the website, and the State does advertising.

Parks and Recreation

There were no questions.

Fire and Ambulance

There were no questions.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Minner, seconded by Council Member Porter, to accept the Departmental Reports as presented. The MOTION passed unanimously.

City Planner's Report

Council Member Bivans asked if Ronda's House of Treats is stopping dog grooming and becoming a sandwich shop. The City Manager stated that the dog grooming business moved and a new tenant is taking over the space. They will probably have to pay for additional EDUs because it is a restaurant. The City just changed the way EDUs are calculated.

Council Member Minner stated that she is for changing the farmers' market to Saturdays. The City Manager stated that there have been a lot of comments about that, and it will be discussed at the end of this season. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the Farmers' Market Manager is in Milford on Saturdays. The City Manager stated that a business organization would be beneficial to bringing business and events to Harrington.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Stubbs, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to accept the City Planner's report as presented. The MOTION passed unanimously.

City Engineer's Report

Mr. Wilkes stated that the application for the wastewater planning matching grant was submitted.

Council Member Stubbs asked if the punch list has been completed for the force main. Mr. Wilkes stated that it is not done yet. He stated that the lagoon closure plan was submitted to DNREC, and they requested more information. The proposed closure plan would involve stabilizing the material, piercing the liner to allow water to percolate through, and backfilling the lagoon. The land could then be used for park land or recreation fields. Council Member Stubbs asked if the County is keeping one of the lagoons. Mr. Wilkes stated that the County has gone back and forth but will probably keep a portion of the small lagoon for emergency overflow.

Council Member Porter asked who would do the water tower warranty inspection. Mr. Wilkes replied that Remington, Vernick, and Beach would. Council Member Bivans asked if the inspection should be conducted farther ahead of the warranty expiration. Mr. Wilkes stated that since it is a maintenance bond and warranty, the City wants to inspect the work as close to the end of the warranty period as possible to catch any issues.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Stubbs, seconded by Council Member Porter, to accept the City Engineer's report as presented. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Old Business

Public Hearing on Ordinance 12-21 – Amending Chapter 365, Streets and Sidewalks, relating to maintenance of street right-of-way

Ms. Bloodsworth asked for an explanation of the ordinance. Vice Mayor Lahman explained that property owners must mow and remove trash from the area in front of their property up to the street. Ms. Bloodsworth stated that snow gets plowed onto her sidewalk and can be difficult to remove and that there is a sidewalk in front of the Parks and Rec fields that does not have snow removed from it. She stated that the drains in front of her house get clogged with snow. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the City is not well prepared for big snows.

There being no further comments, Vice Mayor Lahman closed the Public Hearing.

Second Reading of Ordinance 12-21 – Amending Chapter 365, Streets and Sidewalks, relating to maintenance of street right-of-way

A MOTION was made by Council Member Stubbs, seconded by Council Member Porter, to suspend the reading of Ordinance 12-21. 4 Yes (Coleman, Minner, Porter, Stubbs), 1 No (Bivans). The MOTION passed.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to adopt Ordinance 12-21 as presented. Roll was called: 4 Yes, 1 No (Bivans – No, Coleman – Yes, Minner – Yes, Porter – Yes, Stubbs – Yes). The MOTION passed.

Appointment to Board of Adjustment

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to table the appointment to the Board of Adjustment. The MOTION passed unanimously.

New Business

Authorization for loan application for water projects

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the projects were discussed at the Workshop, and the City Manager is seeking approval to apply for loans to cover those projects. The City Manager stated that a resolution will be presented when the details of a loan are available. Right now the process just needs to begin.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Stubbs, to authorize applying for loans for the water projects. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Report of outstanding utility and tax receivables

The City Manager stated that the City would like to reduce the outstanding bill amounts and is working with the City Solicitor regarding the issues with Farmington. Council Member Minner asked if most of the properties are reoccurring. The City Manager stated that it is usually the same properties.

Utility usage report

The City Manager stated that this report indicates the amount read on commercial meters. When residential meters are read, they will appear on the report as well.

Vice Mayor Lahman asked what types of user were just added to be billed. The City Manager replied churches and nonprofits; everyone has to pay for water now.

Resolution 12-R-05 Wastewater planning grant

The City Manager stated that this is for the twenty-five thousand dollar match for the grant to complete the wastewater study. Vice Mayor Lahman read Resolution 12-R-05.

Council Member Minner asked what the evaluation will entail. Mr. Wilkes stated that it is to look at the existing sanitary sewer system to see if it will meet the capacity needs of the City. The first step to see if improvements need to be made is to do a master capacity evaluation.

Council Member Bivans asked if there would be any problem getting the grant. Mr. Wilkes stated that there should not be a problem.

Council Member Minner asked if the amount would be a lump payment. The City Manager replied that it is matching up to twenty-five thousand dollars and is probably progressive and not a lump payment. Council Member Minner asked if this will be a separate line item in the budget. The City Manager stated that it will be in the CIP and tracked as a project.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Stubbs, seconded by Council Member Porter, to adopt Resolution 12-R-05. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-06 Retirement of John Rathje

Vice Mayor Lahman read the resolution.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Minner, to accept Resolution 12-R-06. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business, a MOTION was made by Council Member Porter, seconded by Council Member Coleman, to adjourn the City Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council