

City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
October 7, 2013

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on October 7, 2013 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Cheryl Lahman; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Charles W. Porter; Council Member Kenneth Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Chris Fazio, Remington, Vernick, and Beach Engineers.

Council Member Duane E. Bivans entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Review of sewer master plan

The City Engineer made a presentation on the sewer capacity study and master plan. He stated that the original sewer system was constructed in 1935 and expanded in 1958. It is a gravity system with mains from six inches to fifteen inches in diameter. The system services the City of Harrington, the Town of Farmington, the Delaware State Fairgrounds, and select parcels.

The City Engineer stated that the priority areas for rehabilitation that are currently under capacity now are Liberty Street between Thomas and Dixon Streets, Gordon Street between Dixon Street and Route 13, Dixon Street between Liberty and Gordon Streets, and Dorman Street between North and Center Streets. Larger pipes are recommended in those areas.

Council Member Stubbs asked if these areas had inflow and infiltration (I & I) problems too. The City Engineer stated that they are not the main areas for I & I. The I & I repairs are focused on trenchless construction; new, larger sewer lines will require digging.

Council Member Bivans entered the meeting.

The City Engineer stated that the Liberty Street improvements would include replacing the existing ten inch pipe with twelve inch, replacing two manholes, and pavement restorations for an estimated cost of one hundred twenty-two thousand

one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$122,175). The Gordon Street improvements include replacing the existing ten inch pipe with fifteen inch, replacing three manholes, and pavement restoration for an estimated cost of one hundred seventy-seven thousand one hundred eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$177,187.50). Dixon Street improvements include replacing the existing ten inch pipe with twelve inch, replacing two manholes, and pavement restoration for an estimated cost of two hundred ninety-nine thousand three hundred sixty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$299,362.50). Dorman Street improvements include replacing the existing six inch pipe with eight inch, replacing five manholes, and pavement restoration for an estimated cost of three hundred fifty-three thousand nine hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$353,970).

The City Engineer stated that maximum built out of all proposed developments would require additional improvements on Route 14 between East and Simpson Streets and north of the pump station between Route 14 and Porter Street.

The City Engineer stated that the Route 14 improvements include replacing the existing eight inch pipe with ten inch, replacing five manholes, and pavement restoration for an estimated cost of three hundred sixty thousand nine hundred fifty-six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$360,956.25). North of the pump station improvements include replacing the existing fifteen inch pipe with eighteen inch, replacing four manholes, and pavement restoration for an estimated cost of three hundred four thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars (\$304,425). The projects can be done individually and be budgeted for over a long period of time.

Mayor Moyer asked how much of the I & I will be taken care of with these improvements. The City Engineer stated that I & I will be improved, but the worst I & I is in other parts of the City; these projects address capacity problems. Council Member Stubbs stated that replacing manholes will help. Old manholes are made of brick; new manholes are sealed.

Council Member Minner asked how long the cost estimates are good for. The City Engineer stated that the costs are good estimates for the next one to two years. The price includes removal of the old pipe and everything that would be needed to get the job done.

Mayor Moyer asked about the different EDUs used for different types of homes. The City Engineer stated that there are standards for the different types of uses for a structure. Mayor Moyer asked if two hundred fifty gallons is an average. The City Engineer replied yes. Council Member Stubbs asked if the same rate is used by Kent County. The City Engineer replied yes.

Mayor Moyer asked about the readings for the flow meters. The City Engineer stated that he will look into it.

Mayor Moyer asked about the numbering of manholes and suggested that each manhole have a number and not a street name and number.

Mayor Moyer stated that he calculated a different amount of EDUs for Friendship Village. The City Engineer stated that he will check the numbers.

Mayor Moyer asked if the flow will be decreased and lead to blockage problems if the pipe diameters are increased. The City Engineer stated that the size and slope of the pipe are factors used in the computer model. There has to be enough velocity for the pipe to be self-cleaning. Potentially it could be harmful to increase the pipe size too much plus there are additional costs.

Council Member Bivans asked if there would be a financial impact of any I & I problems that are corrected with these projects. The City Engineer stated that the situation with I & I would be improved, but the areas identified as the biggest problems in the I & I study are in other parts of town.

Mayor Moyer asked what the life expectancy of the pipe is. The City Engineer stated that the manufacturer says eighty years for pvc pipe, but it is really longer.

The City Manager stated that these projects would be an additional cost to projects already discussed for water and wastewater; it is important to have the whole picture. The sooner the City acts, the better.

Purchase of JetVac

The City Manager stated that this is a used jet vac from Virginia. Right now, Public Works is using an old street sweeper to drain water, and a jet that is not powerful enough. The cost is forty-three thousand dollars (\$43,000). It can be financed for three years for a total interest cost of one thousand four hundred fifty-nine dollars and twenty-five cents (\$1,459.25) or paid for from the sewer escrow account.

Council Member Stubbs stated that he is concerned about the age and condition of the used jet vac, but it is definitely needed.

Vice Mayor Lahman asked about the cost of a new jet vac.

Mayor Moyer stated that he is concerned that this jet vac is not powerful enough. The City Manager stated that the Public Works Supervisor thought it would be sufficient.

Council Member Bivans stated that he is concerned about there being no warranty. Mayor Moyer stated that he would like to request the maintenance log.

The City Manager stated that she will gather more information and present this again.

Council Member Stubbs stated that the jet vac would really benefit the sewer and stormwater lines by removing debris.

Mayor Moyer asked if Kent County charges the City when they use their jet vac. The City Manager stated sometimes.

Truck traffic within City limits

Mayor Moyer stated that there was a meeting with Burriss regarding their contractor's trucks missing the gate. There was an incident with a trucker driving across a resident's yard then breaking a curb. Burriss has made improvements to the fence and entrance. The Police have been stopping and ticketing trucks. The Chief of Police stated that an officer has sat out there thirty-five times and issued ten tickets. Mayor Moyer stated that damage is being done; one stop sign was replaced six times in a year.

Council Member Stubbs stated that truck drivers are professionals and should know the law.

Mayor Moyer stated that Burriss is getting the word out and is stepping up to help.

Council Member Bivans stated that the landscaping is overgrown on the island at the intersection of Reese and Commerce Streets, which is a safety hazard.

Vice Mayor Lahman asked about Burriss using the alternative entrance. Mayor Moyer stated that Burriss said it was inconvenient.

Discussion occurred regarding tractor trailers for local delivery.

The City Manager stated that residents should call the police when their property is damaged.

Council Member Stubbs suggested ballards being used to help prevent trucks from driving over curbs.

Employee salary scales

The City Manager stated that there has been discussion about employee salary scales for some time, and before more time is invested, she would like to know if Council is still interested in them. Employees have a right to know what to expect, and there is no standard. Some employees are working outside of their job descriptions and should be promoted. Scales would add to job security and

fairness and employee retention. Council Member Porter stated that it would help with budgeting as well.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that every job needs a description. The Chief of Police stated that the City has a lot invested in good employees.

Mayor Moyer asked if the information already gathered is from towns comparable to Harrington. The City Manager stated that no town is exactly the same, but there are towns that are close in distance that would be competition for employees.

Council Member Bivans stated that different levels of jobs would let employees earn additional pay by receiving additional training. The City Manager stated that there are employees that are doing work that is beyond entry level but still earning entry level pay. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the job description should be for the job and not the person that is in the position.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the median income of the citizens the employees are working for should also be considered.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council