

City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
April 7, 2014

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on April 7, 2014 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Cheryl Lahman; Council Member Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Fonda Coleman; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Charles W. Porter; Council Member Kenneth Stubbs; Ruth Peterman, Police Resource Manager; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Mike Easton, Horty & Horty; Doug Phillips, Horty & Horty; Gary Hilderbrand, Department of Elections; Doris Young, Department of Elections; Doug Greig, Department of Elections; Marie Cunningham; and Autumn Stevens.

Public Comments

Marie Cunningham stated that she missed the residential rate meeting and asked if she should attend another meeting. The City Manager replied that all of the rate meetings are open to the public.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

FY 2012 Audit presentation

Mike Easton reviewed the contents of the FY 2012 Audit.

Council Member Porter stated that there has been improvement with the items outlined on the management letter. The City Manager stated that the staff has stabilized and will work on correcting remaining items. Mayor Moyer stated that the new computer program should help. The City Manager stated that it will help and should be reflected in the next audit.

Mr. Easton stated that the FY 2013 and 2014 may be done at the same time in order to become current.

Department of Election presentation

Gary Hilderbrand stated that Harrington's staff does a good job conducting the City's election. The Department of Elections is more strictly following the State regulations, and the City must enter into a memorandum of understanding sixty

days prior to the election. The Department of Elections requires copies of all notices.

Council Member Porter asked about the State law. Mr. Hilderbrand stated that in 2006, Title 15 was modified regarding municipal elections. Doris Young stated that it outlines what the Department of Elections and what the town must do. Things are running smoothly and Harrington's staff works well with the Department of Elections.

Mr. Hilderbrand stated that campaign finance reform is expected for campaigns spending over two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

Mr. Hilderbrand stated that the biggest change this year is that a municipal worker must run the voting machine rather than a Department of Elections worker.

Council Member Porter asked if the City needs to revise the Charter or Code to match the State requirements. The City Solicitor stated that the State law overwrote any municipal regulations. The Clerk of Council stated that the City's deadline for candidate filing is 4:00 p.m. but the State's deadline is 4:30 p.m., so the State law was followed.

Doug Greig asked about the City's process for handling absentee ballots. The Clerk of Council stated that absentee ballots are kept in a locked box and counted by the Election Board on the day of the election. Mr. Greig asked if somewhere private is given for someone to vote absentee if they vote in City Hall. The Clerk of Council stated that those voters would vote in the lobby, which is not usually busy, but a voter can be accommodated if necessary.

Trash bid review

The Accountant stated that the current contract for trash collection will expire on June 30, 2014. A mandatory prebid meeting was held on February 20, 2014. Bids were submitted by Waste Industries for a monthly cost of twenty-four thousand one hundred fifty-five dollars and sixty cents (\$24,155.60) and by Allied Waste for a monthly cost of eighteen thousand five hundred one dollars and ninety-three cents (\$18,501.93).

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that since Allied Waste is already the contractor then there will be no changing of cans.

The Accountant stated that the estimated annual cost including spring and fall clean-up is two hundred twenty-eight thousand three hundred twenty-three dollars and seventy-two cents (\$228,323.72) and recommended a quarterly residential rate of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Vice Mayor Lahman asked what happens to money left in the trash collection line at the end of the year. The City Manager stated that it is part of the general fund. Council Member Porter stated that trash collection should break even.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that rather than lowering the rate one dollar and seventy-seven cents (\$1.77), it would be better to use that money to help clean-up the City.

Council Member Bivans asked how the rates went down. The City Manager stated that it has to do with the cans already being in place.

Council Member Bivans asked about getting additional cans, because a lot of trash is placed next to cans. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the discussion before was that the person would have to pay for a whole additional service, which is too much.

Council Member Bivans asked about adding Saturday hours for clean-up weeks.

Public Comments

Ms. Cunningham asked that residents be notified of the rules for trash collection and a calendar of which days are trash and which are recycling.

Autumn Stevens stated that she gets no peace at home. She is harassed by her neighbors, and the police do not help. She has been told to move.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council