

**CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 6:30PM
Mayor Scott Blubaugh**

Council met in regular session with President of Council Eric Barker in chair. Present were Eric Barker, David Earls, Rose Ann Green, Kenneth Leu, Lonnie Teel and Brande Vogele. Scott Blubaugh observed the meeting via Zoom.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the January 10, 2022 Council Meeting.

Appropriation Ordinance No. 01242022

December Municipal Court Report

Treasurer's Quarterly Report

Order of Violations:

- Chapter 28 Article II Section 28-19:
 - 714 Oak St.
 - 1811 Pine St.

Motion by Ken Leu second by Lonnie Teel to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

RECOGNIZE GUEST

Nex-Tech Communications, LLC's COO Michael Pollack and Project Manager Dennis Keesee were in attendance to introduce themselves and the USD 361 fiber WAN project to the governing body. Josh Patterson was in attendance on behalf of USD 361 to support the project. The project included utilizing the public right-of-way between the cities of Harper and Anthony to connect all of USD 361's facilities to each other. While the network created would be exclusively used by USD 361 it will initially be owned by Nex-Tech for the first five years with intentions of transferring ownership to USD 361. The deadline for completion of the project was June of 2022. Mr. Pollack and Mr. Keesee had continued negotiations of the right-of-way agreement with Admin. Hartson and Councilmember Teel and believed most of the concerns were able to be addressed. There was one issue still to be decided by council was the amount of penalty for failure to restore right-of-way when disrupted. The agreement provided for \$1,000 (one thousand) dollars and Mr. Pollack asked if they would consider reducing it. After discussion council determined it an appropriate amount.

Motion by Brande Vogele second by to approve the right-of-way agreement between the City of Harper, Kansas and Nex-Tech Communications, LLC and for the mayor and city clerk to execute the agreement. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilmember Earls left the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Motion by Lonnie Teel second by Rose Ann Green to adopt Resolution No. 830-22 a resolution of the City Council for the City of Harper, Kansas, authorizing participation in Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program, calendar year 2022. Motion carried 5-0.

Harper Recreation Commission President Wade Beal was in attendance to discuss with council the installation of lockers/benches in the FEMA/HRC facility as well as concession equipment in the concession stand. It was requested that any anchoring to the wall be discussed with FEMA to ensure that it would not impact the integrity of the safe rooms.

Motion by Lonnie Teel second by Brande Vogele to approve the Harper Recreation Commission's request to install lockers and benches in the locker room area, and concession stand equipment in the concession stand area of the FEMA/HRC Facility. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Teel stated that he would like to see the facility be named. It was quite the mouthful to refer to it as the FEMA/HRC facility/bathroom/locker room/concession stand.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Admin. Hartson explain to council that due to the copper piping running through the concrete floor, the replacement of the old drinking water fountain was a concern. Unless a new fountain would line up perfectly, they were concerned of issues. It was recommended to not replace the fountain, council agreed.

Councilmember Teel noted that he had discussed the city building generator with Darnell Electric regarding specifications to feed both the City building and the fire station.

The planning commission had their January meeting with the Olsson Studio reviewing expectations for them as zoning consultants.

NEW BUSINESS Admin. Hartson presented a quote from Newberry Family Auto for a 2021 3500 reg cab chassis 4 x 4 to replace the cemetery truck. The quote included a \$6,000 government discount and \$5,500 trade in on the old public works truck. They had another interested party, but were awaiting council decision before selling it.

Motion by Lonnie Teel second by Ken Leu to authorize the purchase of a 2021 3500 Reg Cab Chassis 4x4 from Newberry Family Auto for a cost not to exceed \$33,000 from the equipment reserve fund for the replacement of the cemetery truck trading in *2005 Chevy Silverado (corrected)*. Motion carried 5-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Admin. Hartson reported attending a housing meeting in Chanute with Matthew Godinez, the executive director of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission. Anthony Administrator Cyndra Kastens and Harper County Community Development Director Shelly Hansel participated in the meeting as well. Mr. Godinez reviewed their varied approach to addressing housing issues including RHID (Rural Housing Incentive Districts), KHRC moderate income housing grants, and land banks. All options were available to our communities as well. Anthony and Harper (staff) would like to look at a regional approach to housing, perhaps on the housing developments, to be more attractive to developers. Council requested continued research on all options.

Public works had finished running electrical from the water treatment plant to the wastewater lagoon. They were now working on installing the fountains, working on vehicle preventative maintenance, and read water meters. Street department had put away Christmas decorations, helped move headstone and dig grave, removed a large limb hanging from tree that was declared a danger, filled vac holes and repaired pot holes. Cemetery sexton had updated his ledger books, had two funerals, and assisted with filling pot holes. There were 26 burials in 2021. By staff now performing the grave openings, it was a huge savings to the cemetery budget.

NOTICES & COMMUNICATIONS Due to ongoing concerns of the accuracy of water usage from unmetered hydrants, public works, at the direction of Admin. Hartson, created a locking system for the hydrant closest to Blanchat Manufacturing. Only the meter with the City's meter would be providing bulk water, under the existing bulk water policies and fees.

Motion by Brande Vogele second by Ken Leu to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

Tiffany M. Hartson, CPM, CMC
City Administrator/Clerk