

**CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 6:30PM
Mayor Scott Blubaugh**

Council met in regular session with Mayor Scott Blubaugh in chair. Present were Eric Barker, David Earls, Rose Ann Green, Kenneth Leu, Lonnie Teel and Brande Vogele.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the March 28, 2022 Council Meeting.

Appropriation Ordinance No. 04112022

Motion by Eric Barker second by Brande Vogele to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

RECOGNIZE GUEST

Tim Johnson, Downtown Christmas Display, was in attendance along with his wife Tannis to discuss the downtown Christmas light display assets, specifically the ones purchased with funds from the Transient Guest Tax. Mr. Johnson said that all of the decorations were paid for by about 50% donation and 50% grants (HTTAC, HCCF). He informed council of where he stored the decorations during the off season (old fire station, a privately-owned shed and an old silo). He stored the temperature sensitive equipment at his home. He added that the person storing decorations in their shed would probably like the idea of having them located elsewhere. He said the majority of what he used city funds for were the controllers. The mayor As the City was able to provide the storage necessary, he was not opposed to relocating the decorations. It would save them a bunch of trips back and forth.

While they were talking about the Christmas display, Mr. Johnson asked if council might consider allocating a city worker a day or two a week to help with the project. Their volunteers were five people, but two most likely would not be able to participate in the future. He also asked about advertising for the lighting of the new tree that he was constructing. He noted that PEEPS took care of the candy last year, but it would be nice if there was a volunteer to take on that task consistently. It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce used to take that on. Council took no action.

Motion by Lonnie Teel second by Rose Ann Green to adopt Ordinance No. G-413 an ordinance defining and prescribing regulations for a natural landscape vegetation exception, amending Chapter 22 Article 4 of the City Code of the City of Harper, Kansas. Yea-Barker, Earls, Green, Leu, Teel, Vogele; Ney – 0; Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator Hartson updated the governing body on the final rule regarding use of funds and reporting requirements of the SLFRF funds received by the City. The deadline for the first report for non-entitlement units of government was April 30, 2022. Rather than take action, Admin. Hartson advised waiting to see what applications may be awarded through the BASE grant that the City had applied for. There would be one more regular meeting before the deadline.

COMMITTEE REPORTS Councilmember Vogele reported that she had been approached about updating the goals at the basketball court, the city to look at converting the tennis courts to a pickleball court and addressing the bricks that have settled on Main St. north of the municipal park. Admin. Hartson noted that the last time public works installed brand new goals, the youth of the community dunked and hung on them and broke them within the first few months. PEEPS was looking at the pickleball court as a project. The brick streets would be evaluated during the street master plan review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Admin. Hartson reported that KDOT was requesting the City move up the timeline for the 2023 CCLIP project. The change in schedule would reduce the amount of local funds to put with the project, and given the current fuel prices and construction supply market, the cost would greatly exceed the funds available. The City would be able to do a portion (50%) of the project, while doing 100% of the engineering and then apply for a follow-up CCLIP in the upcoming round (awarded spring 2023). KDOT was only requesting the full-scale plans be submitted by the end of summer 2022, they were not opposed to construction waiting until Spring 2023. By doing two CCLIP's for the single project area, it could ultimately leverage more grant funds and maximize the local match.

Admin. Hartson reported confirming the terms with Bank of Commerce for the 5-year lease of the street sweeper. The purchase was strictly optional at the end of the 5-year term.

Admin. Hartson provided information regarding the Harper Campus surveys that were discussed at the previous meeting. The surveys belong to the Harper County Community Health Foundation. The CEO at Patterson Health Center noted the only person that he knew that had requested surveys was Mr. Jump with the Harper Advocate. Councilmember Earls said the he had since been approached by other community members with concerns as well. Admin. Hartson explained that it was her understanding that of the information would be released at the town hall meeting April 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS Admin. Hartson evaluated the CPI-U Rural Water Rate adjustment with the council. Rates would increase \$0.10 per 1,000 for rural water districts and per 1,000 rates exceeding 2,000 gallons. Admin. Hartson discussed performing an CPI-U adjustment for all rates every year to keep up with the cost of services and supplies. They wanted to evaluate when the last analysis was performed, they didn't want to get behind and have a big jump again.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS Police Chief Burns reported a successful K9 training event in the community the week prior, with multiple dogs and handlers from other agencies being in the area for their certification. K9 Bruce Lee and Sgt. McCann were recertified on drug and bite disciplines. Chief Burns also reported that as a result of an ongoing investigation by the department, three suspects were arrested in connection with local thefts, and drug charges were added due to the possession during the arrest. Harper's K9 unit assisted Sumner County on apprehension of a domestic battery suspect.

NOTICES & COMMUNICATIONS Admin. Hartson read a request of funding assistance from the Harper County Fair Association (Lynda Newberry) for the 2022 Harper County Fair.

Motion by David Earls second by Lonnie Teel to contribute \$1,200.00 to the 2022 Harper County Fair entertainment efforts, funds to be paid out of the General-Community Development Fund. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Brande Vogeles second by Ken Leu to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0.

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