

**CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 6:30PM
Mayor Scott Blubaugh**

Council met in regular session with Mayor Scott Blubaugh in chair. Present were Eric Barker, David Earls, Don Evans, Jan Graves, Greg Stierwalt and Brande Vogele.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the December 22, 2014 Council Meeting.

Appropriation Ordinance No. 011215.

Motion by Don Evans second by Eric Barker to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

RECOGNIZE GUEST

Gene Grabs, Syd Burkholder and Jim Mathes, representing Rural Water District No. 5, were present to discuss an amendment to the rural water contract to adjust the rural water rates for capital costs of the water treatment plant. Clerk Hartson presented information showing that over a 5 year average the rural water district consumed approximately 17% of the city's total annual consumption. The city was proposing that based on the previous 5 year average that the rural water district have a separate water rate for capital costs of the treatment plant for total costs assessed to the city, amortized over 20 years (same length as KDHE SRF Loan). The rural water district preferred to pay the separate rate based on what the city's actual debt incurred for the treatment plant since the city was using "local" funds (funds from reserves and bonds that the rural water did not contribute to) to further pay down the debt of the project. After discussion and how the city's proposal would impact the rural water district's customer's rates, Clerk Hartson was instructed to draft a proposal and submit to the rural water district for review and to then resume discussions at the next regular council meeting.

Motion by Don Evans second by Greg Stierwalt for Mayor to sign Notice to Proceed on January 16, 2015 for Barker Sand and Gravel, to begin demolition of 121 W. Main, if the Balmer Fund and/or Rosalea Hostetler have not complied with the court orders filed with the Clerk of the District Court on September 16, 2014. Yea-Evans, Graves, Stierwalt, Barker, Earls; Ney-Vogele; Motion carried 5-1.

Motion by Eric Barker second by David Earls to approve a 1.7% cost of living adjustment to all regular and part-time City of Harper employees, effective as of the January 5, 2015 pay period. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Eric Barker second by Brande Vogele to approve Lisa Yoder's business license application for Joyful Noise Child Care, a home daycare business, at 405 College Ave. Motion carried 6-0.

Clerk Hartson presented council with the 2015 Swim Pool Manager contract. The parks committee will review contract and submit any proposed changes to council at a later date.

Motion by Don Evans second by Jan Graves to begin advertising for the 2015 Swim Pool manager. Motion carried 6-0.

Council tabled making a contribution to a memorial for Harper Volunteer Firefighter Chad Jackson who had passed away the previous week until more details about the memorials could be provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS none

OLD BUSINESS Clerk Hartson updated council on the projected completion date of the water treatment plant, as well as provided an itemized list of cost savings with the cut list on the project equaling \$14,505.00.

Clerk Hartson informed council that new surveys had been sent out for the water treatment CDBG LMI requirement, if not enough were returned SCKEDD would be coming to town to go door to door (KDOC Monitor would not accept the copies of surveys, only originals).

Clerk Hartson informed council that Aegis had defaulted on their lease agreement with the city and that their financing agent was being notified. The financing agent would have 30 days to assume the lease or forfeit the property.

Mayor Blubaugh informed council that due to the weather and rock solid ground Green Line Inc. was unable to seed the leased property south of Green Line Inc. The mayor had allowed them until early spring to seed the property without accruing more rent expense. If they failed to do so they would then be charged rent from January 1 until they completed the seeding.

Councilmember Stierwalt asked about the street project RFP's. Clerk Hartson informed council that the RFP's had yet to be sent out, without specifications she was struggling to develop an RFP with essential information. Glenn Knak, with H.W. Lochner, was assisting in putting together a generalized scope of work. The street committee will meet on Wednesday to approve the RFP.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS Police Chief Murphy reported thefts at Ricke's Home Lumber, BNSF Railway Depot, Midwest Machine, Wheatland Electric and Johnson's Liquor Store. They had arrested a suspect in the Johnson Liquor Store theft. They believed the same suspect to have committed the other thefts and would be bringing more charges against him. The department was also working a rape and indecent liberties case, the suspect in that case had also been arrested. There were also a DUI arrest and two DWI arrests.

Fire Chief Ken Leu reported that all but one member of the fire department were able to attend Harper Volunteer Firefighter Chad Jackson's funeral as well as representatives from Anthony, Argonia, Attica, Caldwell, Wellington. Argonia was on call for Harper during the services. In Ken Leu's 50+ years on the fire department, Mr. Jackson was the first active firefighter to pass away.

PWD Sanders reported that the new snow plow was still waiting on the bed to be installed.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS Clerk Hartson informed council that Jan Graves, Eric Barker, and Brande Vogele's council positions, as well as Scott Blubaugh's Mayors position were up for election on April 7, 2015. Deadline for candidates to file for the election would be in the City Clerk's office January 27, 2015 at noon. Clerk Hartson had only received one request for appointment to the zoning board/planning commission. She also informed council that there had to be five members, two of which lived outside the city limits but within three miles due to authority over subdivisions.

Motion by Don Evans second by Jan Graves to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0.

Tiffany M. Hartson, CMC
City Clerk