

**CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 6:30PM
Mayor Scott Blubaugh**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the February 23, 2015 Council Meeting.

Minutes of the March 5, 2015 Special Council Meeting.

Appropriation Ordinance No. 02262015.

Appropriation Ordinance No. 03092015.

Motion by Eric Barker second by Greg Stierwalt to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

RECOGNIZE GUEST

Nick Jacobs, N&J Sanitation, was present to discuss with council the timing of the city wide clean-up. Both Mr. Jacobs and the county landfill preferred for the cleanup to be done in April. There was a lot going on in May. Also, with regards to timing after garage sales, either people put their stuff back up for a later sale or they could put a majority of their items out by their trash cans for their weekly trash pickup.

Motion by David Earls second by Brande Vogele to hold the city wide clean-up the week of April 6th through the 12th. Motion carried 5-0.

Richard Heller, 910 Walnut, was in attendance to discuss with council some of his concerns. He would like to see stop signs put up at all intersections, especially the park. He wanted to see a sidewalk installed for a path all the way to the swimming pool, the existing one down Main St. detours into the park. Mayor Blubaugh informed him that although it was unlikely that a stop sign would be put at every intersection the Chief of Police would look into the request and report costs and effectiveness. Councilmember Earls felt that stricter enforcement of driving laws would be a better deterrent than a stop sign at every intersection.

Mr. Heller expressed his dislike for the way the demolition of 121 W. Main was handled. He felt there was personal interest in seeing the building demolished. Mayor Blubaugh informed him that no one on the governing body had a personal interest in the demolition, nor did they receive anything resulting from the demolition.

Mr. Heller asked council what was being done about other properties in town that were in poor condition, specifically citing the downtown walls that had been exposed from other demolitions. Mayor Blubaugh informed him that both the city and county were looking into a solution for the walls.

Mr. Heller asked why the gas company was moving the gas meters from the alleys up to the houses in town. Mayor Blubaugh informed him that it was something that would have to be asked of the gas company. Mr. Heller felt there was a greater risk of fires with the meters being so close to the houses, he added that his meter was loose. Mayor Blubaugh encouraged Mr. Heller to visit with Kansas Gas and have them come look at his meter. Fire Chief Leu informed Mr. Heller that the moving of the gas meters did not increase fire hazards and that it was unlikely the state fire marshal would allow the moving if it did. However, if he had additional concerns he could call the state fire marshal's office.

Bob Coslett, representing the Harper County Fair Board, was present to give an update on the renovations of the blue fair barn. He informed council that the outside bathrooms as well as the inside kitchen had been completed. The total costs of those renovations was \$317,902.83. After receiving funding assistance from the county from what the commissioners allocated for Harper economic/beautification purposes they were left with an outstanding balance of \$32,871.36 owed to the contractors. Mr. Coslett asked council for the use of the future community center funds to pay the outstanding balance.

Motion by Jan Graves second by Greg Stierwalt to contribute \$32,871.36 from the future community center fund for the remaining balance of the Harper County Fair Association's bathroom and kitchen remodel, payable to Commerce Construction. Motion carried 5-0.

Clayton Snyder, Harper Transient Tax Advisory Commission, was present to make recommendations for funding from the Transient Guest Tax. Three applications had been received. Harper Chamber of Commerce was asking for \$3,000 in funding for the 2nd quarter director's salary. Dee Ann Short, Harper Chamber of Commerce Director, made a presentation to council regarding the chamber's purpose and mission as well as Harper's need for an effective Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Greg Stierwalt second by Jan Graves to approve the Harper Transient Tax Advisory Commission's recommendation to fund the Harper Chamber of Commerce's request for \$3,000.00 for the Chamber Director's salary for the 2nd quarter in 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Snyder presented the other two applications, the Harper County Extension Master Gardener's Learning Garden for \$2,000.00 and Harper Recreation Commission softball field's press box for \$10,000.00.

Motion by Jan Graves second by Eric Barker to approve the Harper Transient Tax Advisory Commission's recommendation to fund the Harper County Extension Master Gardener's Learning Garden project for \$2,000.00.

Motion by Jan Graves second by Greg Stierwalt to approve the Harper Transient Tax Advisory Commission's recommendation to fund the Harper Recreation Commission's request for \$10,000.00 to be used towards the replacement of the softball field's press box. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Earls asked council to consider reviewing the transient guest tax ordinance and its requirements for funding eligibility. He felt it was too vague. He proposed the council review and modify it because he did not feel some projects fell into the intent of what the transient guest tax was designed for. Council wanted to review both the ordinance and the guidelines to determine which needed to be narrowed. Clerk Hartson reminded council that the ordinance was a charter ordinance so any amendments would have to be adopted and published twice and would not become effective for 60 days following final publication. It was also requested that the Harper Transient Tax Advisory Commission be present during review so that the council's intentions were understood by everyone involved.

The park committee made a recommendation to hire Angie Ord as the 2015 swim pool manager with a salary of \$1,000 every two weeks. Mrs. Ord, if classes are available, agreed to become certified in teaching swim lessons and train life guards. She is still looking for classes within a reasonable distance.

Motion by Greg Stierwalt second by Jan Graves to hire Angie Ord as the 2015 Swim Pool Manager with a salary of \$1,000.00 every two weeks, and for Mayor to sign the contract. Motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed the zoning consultant fees provided by Clerk Hartson. They were received from Foster and Associates and John Riggs. Council asked for a little more information as to the distance Mr. Riggs would have to travel for meetings and trainings.

Council briefly discussed health nuisance violations. Chief Murphy informed council about an article from Kingman that had stricter fines and penalties. He was going to get their form and see how it might be adapted to Harper and see if council felt it might be successful. Council was interested in seeing violators go to municipal court rather than appeal to council.

OLD BUSINESS PWD Sanders informed council that he had called U-Call It Construction and was waiting for a listing of locations to go check out for the durability and effectiveness his solution might provide for the downtown walls.

Sturdi-built had been contacted for the stage, they were drawing a design and working on estimates for the downtown stage.

Chief Murphy reported that the sirens were set off the previous week for testing. The mobile unit still wasn't working but the handset did. He was waiting for Tom Winters the county emergency manager to have time to reprogram the mobile units.

NEW BUSINESS PWD Sanders informed council that the bushes had been taken out around the workout stations along the walking path in the park. He would like to concrete the work stations in to save on maintenance. Mayor Blubaugh asked for him to visit with the wellness center since the stations were installed as a part of their project several years ago and determine if they were going to do any upkeep on the stations.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS Police Chief Murphy informed council that he had been made aware of Mr. Heller's request for stop signs at every intersection the previous week. He did not feel there was sufficient traffic flow to justify a stop or yield sign at every intersection. The previous Sunday the department assisted the county on a theft in progress. He informed council that the three suspects charged with the involvement of a drug overdose death had all accepted plea bargains. The case against the drug dealer had been forwarded on to Oklahoma where the suspect resided where they were considering charges. The demolition at 121 W. Main went fairly smooth minus a few verbal outbursts. Councilmember Earls asked Chief Murphy why the city was paying him mileage for use of a personal vehicle for work purposes. Chief Murphy responded that during the investigation of the overdose he had performed surveillance and didn't want to do so in a marked police vehicle. His latest trip to Oklahoma for the overdose case he took his personal vehicle because he was unsure of what would be necessary including surveillance. Councilmember Earls felt if vehicles are provided, they should be used.

Fire Chief Leu bought a vacuum for the fire station.

PWD Sanders asked that people report alleys needing repairs and they can get the gas company to do repairs. He informed council that the springs on the bounce toys in the park were breaking, they would cost \$300-\$1,100 to replace. Mayor Blubaugh asked to look into refurbished or used toys to replace them before buying new.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS Clerk Hartson read a Notice to Property Owners regarding Dennis and Leslie Roberts request for of a conditional use for a 1560 square foot detached garage in an R-1 Single-Family Residential District, hearing is March 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Harper Senior Center.

The Harper Planning Commission had set their meeting times on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at city hall at 6:30 p.m. They would be holding a special meeting March 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. for public hearings for the adoption of regulations.

Lindburg, Vogeles, Pierce, Faris (auditors) will be visiting in the next two weeks to perform the city's 2014 audit.

Motion by Brande second by Jan Graves to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

Tiffany M. Hartson, CMC
City Clerk