

**HARRIS CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 13, 2017**

**I. Call to order**

Mayor Miller called to order the regular meeting of the Harris City Council at 7:02 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

City Clerk Dargay conducted roll call. The following members were present: Mayor Miller, Councilmembers Payne, Rossini and Williams. Councilmember Sculley was absent. Clerk Dargay announced a quorum of the Council was present.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Payne made the motion to approve the February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes, March 1, 2017 Special Closed Meeting minutes, the March 1, 2017 Special Meeting minutes, and the Accounts Payable. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**V. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**VI. Consulting Staff Reports**

• **People Service Report - written report**

- George advised that, while replacing the air valve on the SBR at the WWTP, Hydrotech found that a coupler also needed to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$1,000. Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve the purchase of this coupler. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- George also advised that the City is receiving a 2016 Wastewater Treatment Facility Operational Award, again this year, from the MPCA. George will accept this award at the Annual WW Operations Conference on March 30.

• **Park Committee - Chair Monica Hult**

• **City Engineer – Chuck Schwartz**

**VII. Regular Agenda**

- **Kelly Johnson/Ron Aho - Conditional Use Permit - Outdoor Storage as Accessory Use** - Ron Aho and Wes Johnson were present. Councilmember Rossini advised that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing on this CUP application and, after consideration, was recommending to Council that they approve the CUP. Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve this CUP. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Brian Swanson - Fire Department** - Brian Swanson was present. He was at the meeting as a representative of the fire department. He stated that the fire department members were troubled by the Council's termination of the fire chief and that they had some questions for the Council regarding this termination. One of the reasons given for termination was that he no longer lived or worked within the required distance from the firehall and the members felt this was incorrect. Mayor Miller advised that the Council was correct in their distance issue and that the fire chief had even stated that fact to her. Brian then asked why no one from the Council came to the members to explain why this action had been taken. Mayor Miller explained that his termination was based on his performance evaluation and, by law, that information is confidential and could not be disseminated to the members. Brian then stated that the fire department operates under the premise of 'chain of command' so what is the plan for chain of command going forward. Mayor Miller advised that they will follow the chain of command in their SOP's. Brian then stated that, at the last Council meeting, the Council said that the fire department was not meeting their expectations and the department wanted to know what expectations were not being met. They were also requesting that Councilmember Sculley be re-appointed as the Council's fire department liaison. Mayor Miller advised that the designations for committees, etc are made, annually, at the first Council meeting of the year.
- **HVFD Relief Ass'n Gambling Permit application** - Larry Eckl was present and was applying for a gambling permit for an event that they are hosting at The Fuse on October 21. Councilmember Payne made the motion to approve the Relief Ass'n gambling permit. Councilmember Rossini seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- **Microphones for Council Chambers** - Hans Breiland, of AAI-Sound, was present to explain his proposal for a new audio system for the Council Chambers. The City Clerk advised that she had contacted several other audio companies, but they were not interested in submitting a proposal. She had also checked into purchasing the equipment on line. After discussing the options, Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve the purchase of new microphones and speaker for the Council Chambers in the amount of \$5,000. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

## VIII. Staff Reports

- **Planning Commission - John Rossini** - John advised the Council that the Planning Commission would be holding a public hearing prior to their next regular meeting. This public hearing would cover the rental ordinance and the rezoning of the Pinewood Apartments.
- **Fire Dept -**
  - Relief Ass'n Pension - Brian Swanson brought information from their auditor showing that an increase to \$1,213 would result in a funding level of 110%. The Council agreed that the firefighters deserve an increase. Councilmember Payne made the motion to increase the benefit amount for the firefighters from \$1,100 to \$1,213. Councilmember Rossini seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  - Outstanding Equipment Needs and Repairs - The Council discussed the list of fire department needs that had been discussed at their business meetings, but had not been brought to Council and some issues that had just come about in the last week.
    - Ladder testing - there was only one estimate for this annual test. This company is used by many of the surrounding departments, and there are not a lot of companies who are certified to do this testing. The estimate was \$240.
    - Gloves - there were three estimates for new gloves, with the lowest proposal being \$2,000.
    - Turnout gear cleaning - during a recent call, some turnout gear had become contaminated. The options were to dispose of that gear or to have it biologically decontaminated at a cost of approx \$450.

Councilmember Payne made the motion to approve the ladder testing, gloves and gear cleaning. Mayor Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Miller and Councilmembers Payne and Williams voted for the motion. Councilmember Rossini opposed. Motion carried.

The Council discussed some of the other fire department needs:

  - The tanker needs to have the air brakes inspected and the transmission fluid changed. The fire department will get estimates for the next Council meeting.
  - A fire chief from another department had suggested that the department purchase Tyvek Level C disposable suits to use when contamination was a possibility. The fire department had received a free box of Tyvek suits a while ago, but wasn't sure if they were the correct 'level'. They will check and advise Council at the next meeting.
  - The fire department needs new Nomax hoods.... they will get quotes for next Council meeting.
  - Although the electrical outlets were installed in the ceiling of the bay last fall, the fire department has not yet decided whether they want to purchase cord reels or breakaway electric cords. They will discuss and get estimates and bring to next Council meeting.
- **Public Works - Alan Teich** - written report -
  - Alan would like to rent a boom mower to cut brush along the roads. The cost would be \$2200 for 40 hours and he feels that he can get all of the roads, that need brushing, done in 40 hours. Neither of our mowers can be used for this brushing. Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve this rental. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
  - Alan also asked the Council for approval to purchase a new 500-gallon double-wall storage tank for diesel fuel. He had three estimates, the lowest being \$1,600. Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve the purchase of the new tank. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- **City Treasurer - Marlys Balfany** - written report
  - Marlys requested approval to work additional hours to prep for the upcoming annual audit. Councilmember Rossini made the motion to approve these extra hours. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- **City Clerk - Joanne Dargay** - written report -
  - Joanne requested approval to purchase new phones for City Hall. The current phones are no longer holding a charge. Councilmember Payne made the motion to approve the purchase of new phones. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**IX. Mayor and Council Reports**

**X. Adjourn**

Councilmember Rossini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. There being no further business, Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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City Clerk Joanne Dargay

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Mayor Diane Miller

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Date Approved

APPROVED