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## Harrisburg City Council Minutes April 23, 2024

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Mayor: Robert Duncan, Presiding  
Council President: Mike Caughey, Present  
Councilors Present: Kimberly Downey, Robert Boese, Randy Klemm, and Cindy Knox  
Councilors Absent: Charlotte Thomas (Excused)  
Staff Present: City Administrator Michele Eldridge, Public Works Director Chuck Scholz, Finance Officer/Deputy City Recorder Cathy Nelson and City Recorder/Municipal Court Clerk Lori Ross  
Meeting Location: Harrisburg Municipal Center Located at 354 Smith St

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Robert Duncan

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** by Mayor, Robert Duncan at the hour of 6:31pm

**CONCERNED CITIZEN(S) IN THE AUDIENCE:** Steve Hood of Gap Rd approached Council. He attended the April 9<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and didn't get an opportunity to speak. Hood is concerned that Dr. Higgins is not neutral and feels that he wants this project to get off the ground. He further commented that Qcell doesn't care about how much power they produce but are interested only in the tax credits that are available.

- Caughey informed Hood that this property is not located inside the City limits and has nothing to do with the City of Harrisburg.
- Hood stated that solar is a 40-year life span and he is concerned about what will happen with the property when solar is no longer the thing. His recommendation is for City Council not to support it.
- Mayor Duncan commented that this project does bother him, but the state is going to do what they want to do.
- Klemm feels the fight is getting shoved down City Council's throats.

**THE MATTER OF MEETING WITH A MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE FROM LCSO IF ONE IS AVAILABLE:** Due to urgent matters, a representative from LCSO was unable to attend this evening. Eldridge asked Council to email her with any questions on the reports and she would forward those to Sergeant Frambes for a response. No comments or concerns from Council.

**THE MATTER OF REVIEWING THE 1ST QUARTER CRIME RESULTS FOR 2024 FOR THE CITY OF HARRISBURG:** Eldridge reviewed the staff report noting person crimes have increased slightly and property crimes are lower than any time in 2023. Eldridge commented that the City is looking good compared to last year. No comments or concerns from Council.

**THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE 2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN:** Eldridge pointed out page 91 of the agenda showing the changes made to Council Priorities indicating the top priority is the Water Treatment Facility.

- Downey inquired about what an URD (Urban Renewal District) was. Eldridge to change acronym to HRA (Harrisburg Redevelopment Agency)
  - Klemm **motioned to approve the final draft of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan and was seconded by Downey. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.** (Yes: Caughey, Downey, Klemm, Boese and Knox. No: None.)

**THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING AN EAGLE PARK SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:** Eldridge asked Council how much should the price be for sponsorship with trying to keep it affordable for larger and smaller businesses and do we want to allow non-Harrisburg businesses to be sponsors?

- Downey liked the idea of a brick wall, or a brick ground area at the dog park. This would be an affordable way for all types of businesses to get involved.
- Downey reminded Council the City should get memorial requests for the park. Eldridge replied that will help with park benches and tables.
- Mayor Duncan commented that the City could sponsor a fire plug at the dog park. Scholz stated that he has two planned already for the dog park.
- Scholz feels we should look at other City's and create a policy, like the memorial bench policy and bring back to Council. He doesn't like the look of the signs around the park. Downey agreed.
- Caughey asked about page 105 of the agenda, and who William Wordsworth and Robert Frost were. Eldridge replied they were a poet and a landscaper. Downey likes the idea of naming the series after local residents instead.
- Boese doesn't like the idea of businesses outside of Harrisburg, or non-residents, being able to have their name displayed at the park. Caughey agrees.
- Downey thinks we should look into other dog parks and bring back to Council.
- Downey suggested activity equipment donations for the dog park.
- Knox doesn't like the idea of fence signs and would like to see specific things that are on our wish list for the park with the name of the donator listed.
- Boese asked about the price of any replacement sign or item and who would be responsible.
- Scholz stated we can have something in the policy about who is responsible for the replacement cost.
- Eldridge likes having a list of items for the park and applicants make donations for those. Eldridge to look into creating a policy.
- Boese asked who would be naming the trails and Eldridge replied that we haven't decided at this time.

- Scholz mentioned having a trail named after the person or organization designated to clean up that particular trail.
- Eldridge stated she would gather more information and bring back to council.
- Caughey commented on his appreciation for the work the FFA did for Priceboro Park, and he would like Council to send a thank you card on their behalf.

**THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE 2ND QUARTER 2023/2024 EXPENSE REPORT:** Nelson stated that property taxes are at 101%. We are halfway through this budget year and are fiscally doing great! She noted that there is zero red in expenditures as we are ahead of where we budgeted. Nelson informed Council that both the City and HRA Audit will be presented at the next meeting scheduled for May 14, 2024.

- **Klemm motioned to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023/2024 Expense Report and was seconded by Caughey. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.** (Yes: Caughey, Downey, Klemm, Boese and Knox. No: None.)

#### **OTHER ITEMS:**

- Ross to create an application regarding reader board request requirements. Downey asked Ross to bring back any unusual requests to Council and to work on creating a future policy.
- Scholz informed Council he has until noon on Friday to submit information to the Oregon Ethics Commission for their investigation. He is asking for letters of support and asked Council to email letters and to include the case number and their phone number. Eldridge commented that the City still hasn't received anything about the investigation.
- Eldridge informed Council that part two of the SRTS Grant opens May 6<sup>th</sup> and closes July 31<sup>st</sup> and asked for letters of support. Eldridge noted that match has gone down due to enrollment dropping in the School District.
- Scholz informed Council he is still working on the flashing beacon for the highway as part of the Transportation Master Plan.
- Caughey asked if over the counter prescriptions were allowed at the drug takeback event. Ross to email Caughey with the information.
- Caughey commented about towns being hacked including water systems and wanted to know how we are going to communicate between the north and south plant water plants. Scholz replied to it would be highly improbable for us as we are going direct signal between phone lines and will not be internet based.

**With no other business, the City Council Work Session adjourned at the hour of 7:38pm.**

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Mayor

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City Recorder