

**MINUTES OF THE HELPER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 7, 2011**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Helper Auditorium**  
**Council Chambers**  
**19 South Main**  
**Helper, Utah 84526**

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Dean Armstrong

City Staff

Council Members:

Kirk Mascaro (Absent Excused)  
Chris Pugliese  
Robert Bradley  
Gary Harwood  
Brandon Wise

City Recorder Jona Skerl  
Chief Trent Anderson  
City Attorney Gene Strate

Citizens: John Serfustini, Amanda Holley, Diane Lodeserto, Kate Powell, Kogan Powell, Floyd Powell, Melissa Sorenson, Roman Vega, Kathleen Royster, Stacey Armstrong, Paula Herrera, Joy Bradley, Don and Micha Marrelli, Vink and JoAnn Tolich, Elley Cowdell, Shawna Jensen, Darrin Teply, Lynnette and Pete Eaquinta.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Armstrong directed the Pledge of Allegiance.

The regular meeting of the Helper City Council was called to order by Mayor Armstrong at 6:00.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES March 3, 2011.**

Council Member Wise moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2011. Council Member Harwood seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Pugliese, Bradley, Wise, and Harwood voting yes.

**ELLEY COWDELL STORY ON HELPER.**

Elley Cowdell recited the short story that she had written for her 4<sup>th</sup> grade paper at Sally Mauro. Ms. Cowdell received 6 out of 6 points for her story about Helper. Mayor Armstrong and Council thanked her for the wonderful things stated about Helper.

**MELISSA SORENSON HELPER LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL UPDATE.**

Melissa Sorenson explained the issues with the Little League field. The old sponsor signs need to come down so the new ones can be put up. Phillip Richardson is willing to build the new bathrooms if the city will supply the material.

**KATHLEEN ROYSTER AND STACEY ARMSTRONG ON ARTS FESTIVAL UPDATE.**

Kathleen Royster reported the Arts Festival had received \$15,000 from Carbon County Tourism Tax. The committee has decided to cancel Helper Idol this year due to budget restraints. Ms. Royster announced there will be a new website address [helperartsandmusicfestival.com](http://helperartsandmusicfestival.com). The website will contain a list of events, forms and contact information.

**DIANE LODESERTO CEMETERY ISSUES.**

Councilmember Wise requested that Ordinance 2006-3 Section 9-5-2 2.A reflect a change in the height of allowed headstones. The change would allow headstones to be 30 inches in height instead of 24 inches in height in all of Sections One and Three. Diane Lodeserto thanked the council to allow her to have the headstone she wanted for her son. Mayor Armstrong called for a special meeting to pass the ordinance on April 11, 2011.

Council Member Wise moved to have Attorney Strate write up a new ordinance with the changes. Council Member Bradley seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Pugliese, Bradley, Wise, and Harwood voting yes.

**ROMAN VEGA DRAINAGE ISSUES.**

Roman Vega at 305 Reservoir Street, displayed pictures of a large pool of water just in front of his driveway. Council Member Pugliese thought that the engineer had solved the drainage issue. Mayor Armstrong instructed Council Member Pugliese to have the engineer reevaluate the problem, make a new plan and implement it as soon as possible.

**DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL ON PURCHASING WEED SPRAYER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,235.**

Council Member Wise explained the bid for the new weed sprayer in the amount of \$5,235. Council Member Wise reported that this sprayer would cover a larger area than the current small sprayer would. B & J Trading will also maintain the sprayer free of charge. Mayor Armstrong asked if this was the best price and if there were more bids for the same type of sprayer. Council Member Wise told the council that this was the best price and he would give them a copy of the other bids.

Council Member Pugliese moved to approve the purchase of the weed sprayer in the amount of \$5235. Council Member Wise seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Pugliese, Bradley, Wise and Harwood voting yes.

Council Member Wise was excused from the meeting to attend training.

**DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL ON RECODIFICATION OF THE HELPER CITY CODE BOOK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,225.**

Mayor Armstrong instructed the council to review the bid from Code Publishing for the recodification of the code book. Mayor Armstrong explained that the code book and not been updated since 1988. Recodification would allow us to put our codes on the internet for the public and it would be easy to search through the different codes quickly. Mayor Armstrong instructed the City Recorder to obtain another bid for the recodification before proceeding.

Council Member Bradley moved to approve the recodification of the code book in the amount of \$11,225. Council Member Harwood seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Pugliese, Bradley and Harwood voting yes.

**DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL ON SEWER RATE INCREASE.**

Council Member Harwood explained Price River Water Improvement District passed a \$1.00 increase the sewer rate beginning July 1, 2011. Helper City will raise the sewer rate \$1.00 beginning July 1, 2001 to cover the increase. Attorney Strate will prepare a new resolution reflecting the new sewer rate for next meeting.

Council Member Harwood moved to approve the \$1.00 increase to the sewer rate beginning July 1, 2011. Council Member Bradley seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Pugliese, Bradley and Harwood voting yes.

**DISCUSSION ON DORMANT WATER CONNECTIONS.**

Council Member Pugliese reported on the complaints he was receiving on the dormant water fee. Council Member Pugliese researched other cities and there were several that implemented a dormant fee. Mayor Armstrong suggested on having any land owner that would like the city to remove the meter and meter barrel sign a document informing them of the consequences of meter removal.

**DISCUSSION ON GENERAL PLAN GOALS.**

This item will be the next agenda.

**DISCUSSION ON CAT ISSUES.**

Mayor Armstrong pointed out an article in a newspaper where Salt Lake County is requiring cat owners to license their cats. Feral cats are a problem in the city, the population is growing and their needs to be some control. Police will be focusing on dogs running at large and possible increasing the fine. Pete Eaquinta asked if there could be an animal control officer hired for just those purposes. Mr. and Mrs. Eaquinta have been trapping cats and it has created a problem with their neighbors it has not been pleasant. Mayor Armstrong explained that several residents have been feeding the feral cats, this is illegal to do and it is not helping the problem. Darrin Telpy explained he feeds and medicates the feral cats and finds homes for them. Mr. Telpy told the council of programs that would help with the feral cat problem.

**DISCUSSION CAMPING LOCATIONS.**

Council Member Pugliese has a map of locations for camping sites and will see that the City Records office has a copy.

**MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION.**

No motion for closed session.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENT.**

City Recorder Jona Skerl reminded council about the budget deadline.

Council Member Harwood reported on the Oberto Lane waterline is almost completed.

Council Member Bradley reported about the Rocky Mountain power meeting on the new power line upgrade.

Council Member Pugliese reported on the Cat Backhoe repairs in the amount of \$5,000.

Mayor Armstrong reported on the UDOT annual meeting the grants and assistance that the City can obtain from the state. Also the new state law on signs and bridges. The Rock and Fossil Show may come to Helper this year at the auditorium. Sun Advocate will be doing No Grave Go Unadorned again this year so the cemetery needs to be ready.

There being no further business Council Member Pugliese moved to adjourn. Council Member Harwood seconded the motion. Motion Carried Pugliese, Bradley and Harwood voting yes. Meeting adjourned.

I here by certify that the fore going represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Helper City Council meeting held on Thursday, April 7, 2011.

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Dean Armstrong  
Mayor  
Approved on May 5, 2011

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Jona Skerl  
City Recorder