

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2010**

The Harriman City Council met in regular session January 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Municipal Complex. The Honorable Chris Mason, Mayor was present and presiding. Mayor called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Councilmember Wright. Roll call of Council was as follows:

PRESENT: Kenyon Mee
Ken Mynatt
J D Sampson
Lonnie Wright

ABSENT: Buddy Holley
Chase Tedder

Mayor Mason asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 8, 2009. Councilmember Mee made the motion and Councilmember Sampson seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call "Yes".

Mayor Mason asked for a motion to approve the special called minutes from December 28, 2009. Councilmember Sampson made the motion and Councilmember Mee seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call "Yes".

Mayor Mason asked for a motion to pay the salaries. Councilmember Mynatt made the motion and was seconded by Councilmember Mee. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call "Yes".

DELEGATIONS

Mayor Mason asked the public if anyone would like to approach Council.

Doug McGill with Waste Connections stated that he had read in a recent article about the revitalization of the downtown area. He presented Mayor Mason with a check for \$500 to use on any downtown revitalization project.

Sarah McCoin with SEBS wanted to give the council an update on the insurance enrollment. She handed out a summary to the council on the event and action that she believes the council still needs to consider. First she wanted to let council know that Angie Skidmore did a remarkable job pulling all of the employees together in less than 24 hours. Sarah stated that most of the employees seemed thrilled on the enhanced benefits that the council voted on. She stated that the employees were concerned about the dependent premiums and knows the council is well aware of this. She stated that at the December 28th meeting the council discussed maybe helping to pay some of the dependant coverage. She asked the council to look at the back side of the paper she handed them. At the bottom of the page she had a chart of the amounts that were paid in CY 2009, what would be paid in CY 2010 if we had not switched from the state benefits administration and what our projected CY 2010 should be since we did switch from the state benefits plan. She included different option charts the council might want to consider if they are going to supplement the employees on the family coverage health insurance. She stated that she will continue to work with the city to earn their business going forward. She stated that her company provides very exclusive services and one is a benefits summary of all the benefits the city offers for the employees. She handed everyone a copy to look at. She stated that her firm has already started on this for the city employees. She stated that the council needs to be aware of the transparency issue for the 2011 plan year. She stated that in reviewing her notes of the December 28th meeting the council approved UHC and not UHC-Rivervalley and in fact that is the plan the city has received. This just needed to be noted on the different plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Mason asked Councilmember Mee if he had any old business. Councilmember Mee stated that during the 28th meeting that they were looking at the projected savings the city could potentially have by changing to this new plan. The council said they wanted to use the savings to supplement the dependant coverage. He wanted to go ahead and move forward with the supplement amount because the employees only have until

January 30, 2010 to sign any dependants up for this insurance. Councilmember Mynatt made some summarizations of the options that Ms. McCoin provided for the council to look at. He stated that he talked to Ms. McCoin briefly on a possible HRA program. This type of program is to help fund some of the out-of-pocket maximum if an employee did reach that amount. Ms. McCoin summarized more on the options she presented to the council. She stated that she didn't project many more employees would add dependant coverage. Councilmember Wright recommended that someone sit down with our health insurance broker before the next meeting so we can determine how much we can help. She recommended that the city use some of the savings but not all because the city will possibly have a rate increase for CY 2011. Councilmember Mee made a recommendation that Councilmember Wright and Councilmember Holley meet with the medical broker and look at these potential savings and see how much the city can supplement for the dependant coverage in time for next week's meeting. Councilmember Mee stated that he would help and would like to have a firm number to vote on next week. Mayor Mason stated that if we need to we can call a special meeting before the workshop in two weeks. Councilmember Mee yielded the floor to Benny Joseph. Mr. Joseph stated that he was going in for hip replacement surgery Friday. He has been working for weeks getting all of the paperwork ready under his old insurance, now he is going to have to fill out all the paperwork again because we now have a new insurance. He also stated that now it is going to cost him \$1000 out of pocket where before it didn't cost him anything. Ms. McCoin stated that that is correct; Mr. Joseph could expect to pay up to \$1000 out of pocket for his surgery. Ms. McCoin did state that all of the co pays will go toward the out of pocket maximum. Mayor Mason asked if anyone else would like to say something. Councilmember Mee reiterated to Councilmember Wright to call and he would assist him. Councilmember Sampson asked to have a budget workshop to try and clean the budget up and discuss this financial matter further. He wants to invite all of the department heads. Patrol officer Greg Sims stated that he had independent family health insurance and has since added his children to this new plan. He stated he would prefer to have family coverage, but the biggest obstacle for him and other employees is that to have family coverage health and dental insurance it cost well over \$900 a month. We get paid on a biweekly basis and that is an entire paycheck. He would like to have council to move things a little faster to find out exactly how much they are going to be able to contribute so the employees will know what they can do. Mayor Mason stated that he wanted the department heads to talk with their employees and find out how many employees want dependant coverage. That was the point of bidding out the insurance, so we could offer affordable family health insurance coverage. After much discussion they decided to get with all the employees and get a good number of who would want dependant coverage and bring back a firm amount the council can approve to contribute to dependant coverage.

Councilmember Mee wanted to give an update on the parks and recreation committee meeting. He stated that they were discussing what they can do next budget year and asked for everyone's input. He stated that the council had approved some signs for the parks and they still have not been ordered and wanted an update. Mayor Mason asked the City Clerk to find out something and get back to Councilmember Mee.

Mayor Mason asked Councilmember Sampson if he had any old business. Councilmember Sampson stated that he wanted to have a budget workshop and ask all department heads to attend. Mayor Mason asked Bob Tidwell to coordinate a budget workshop.

Mayor Mason asked Councilmember Mynatt if he had any old business. Councilmember Mynatt stated that he did not at this time.

Mayor Mason asked Councilmember Wright if he had any old business. Councilmember Wright stated there was an ordinance on the agenda and he would like to have some type explanation in their packets for the future use. He also stated that he would like to have a list identifying who can speak for the council in public.

Mayor Mason asked Bob Tidwell if he had any old business. He stated that he needed council's recommendation on what they want him to do about the tenant (Larry Webb) next door. He stated that the time limit had expired and needs guidance on what to do next. Mayor Mason stated to get with the City Attorney for the legal advice.

Mayor Mason wanted to update everyone on the appeals (Midtown annexation) hearing held in Knoxville. He stated that Harold Balcom won the appeal with a 3-0 judgment. The next step will be to go back to Chancery Court this summer on the ordinance.

AGENDA

1st reading of ordinance 1209-1

An ordinance amending the Harriman zoning map by rezoning certain property from C-2 general commercial district to C-1 central business district

Mayor Mason read the ordinance aloud for everyone. Mayor Mason asked for a motion to approve the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Mynatt asked Bill Alexander if this has been through all of the requirements. Mr. Alexander stated that the lady with the state said everything would be fine. Councilmember Mynatt asked if this piece of property, which is located on Morgan St., was in the Historical District. They were not sure but they did not think it was. Councilmember Mynatt made a motion to pass this ordinance provided that the use will meet all of the historic guidelines. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wright. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call "Yes".

Mayor Mason reminded everyone to please shop their local businesses to make 2010 the best year that Harriman has ever seen.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilmember Mynatt and was seconded by Councilmember Mee. Motion to adjourn was passed with a unanimous "Aye".



Christopher B. Mason/Mayor

Angela Skidmore/City Clerk