

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 9, 2019

Charles City city council met in a budget session on January 9, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseman, Michael Hammond and Dan Mallaro. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

City administrator Diers had distributed a budget preview and noted that there was a slight increase in valuations. The council has tried to keep the city levy pretty steady the past few years and the General fund balance remains pretty strong.

Library director Annette Dean was present to review the FY20 budget for the library and library trusts. The salaries for library employees include a 3% increase to get them more in line with other library wages for the state since we are quite a bit below the average. The fire alarm system needs some work. All but the Andres trust funds are limited to interest earned to be used for purchases. Some of the trusts are very restrictive on what can be purchased with the funds.

Park and Rec director Steve Lindaman was present to review the various park and rec budgets. Included in re-estimated salaries for FY19 is a payout for his planned retirement this spring. He is suggesting making a full time park superintendent position and has inputted a salary of \$40,000 for this position in next year's budget. He has also added \$.50/hour for all part time wages for FY20. Council member Freeseman asked if the park board has ever considered eliminating some of the city park areas to save on maintenance costs. Steve replied that would be difficult to do since most of the park areas get utilized pretty well. The ball park by Mid America has been taken back by them to be used for their operations, so that park is off the city's maintenance. The park department contracts for quite a bit of spraying and it was asked if this is something that could be done by the department. Steve replied that we do not have the equipment to do this and also not sure if there is time for the employees to perform this work. He has budgeted to purchase two lawn mowers in FY20 for a total of \$46,000. Painting and siding at the golfcourse clubhouse is included at \$15,000 and resurfacing the tennis courts is budgeted at \$50,000 for FY20. The deficits at the pool and golfcourse are about the same as in years past. The usage at the golf course seems to be ticking up. Full time salaries all have been calculated with a 2.75% increase for FY20. The park and rec capital improvement fund has a rather large balance and has the following projects are planned for FY19: skate park seed money, Victory Park lights, Wildwood ballfield fencing and golf course bridge evaluation. Projects budgeted for FY20 include Lions Field lighting, golf course bridge, clubhouse siding/painting, men's restroom remodel and pool equipment. The pool was built in 1991 and we are looking at major reconstruction being needed in about 3 years. Estimate for a brand new pool is two and a half million at a minimum. It would be nice to have a pool in a better location that is more visible. Talks will continue with the Y to see about a shared venture for a pool since theirs is also getting quite old. Question on how we increase the use of our riverfront since we have the kayak course there and have put in new shelter houses, too. Steve Lindaman commented that the city recently purchased some kayaks they plan to make available for classes in kayaking this summer.

City administrator Diers distributed an initial listing for the one day borrowing items.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, city clerk