

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 10, 2018

Charles City city council met in a budget/planning session on January 10, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Michael Hammond and Dan Mallaro. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

Jan Libbey was present from Healthy Harvest to talk to the council about that program. She covers 9 counties with this program and will be requesting some funding from the city during the budget process to help fund a local food coordinator here in Floyd County. Wendy Johnson then spoke about a proposed arboretum to be located on the corner parcel by Immaculate Conception school that was part of a previous flood buyout program through the city. This type of project was identified during a public input process last fall. They have asked for funding from various grant sources and have been turned down. They aren't asking for any funding from the city but do need permission to do this project on this parcel since it is city owned. The park and rec board has reviewed this proposal and is in favor of it as long as the park director is consulted on what types of trees/bushes are planted to help keep the maintenance at a minimum. Council can officially act on this at a future regular council meeting.

The New Life Church that was located west of town near Maple Heights has closed and they would like to sell the property to help settle their finances. This parcel is currently zoned R-1 and the desire is to re-zone it to a B-3 to allow for commercial use. Given the surrounding zoning districts, a B-3 would be a better fit for this stretch of land and it would attach to currently zoned B-3 property just to the east of the church. This would be a city initiated request and needs to start with planning and zoning for their consideration. Staff has talked to the owner of the property just east of the church and he is agreeable to this zoning change. It would probably just be the northerly 250' of his property. Discussion on the possible need for a frontage road if this property would develop. Staff will research this item.

A request has been received from a fireworks supplier to rent out a portion of the HyVee parking lot this summer and set up a tent from which to sell fireworks during the state designated time frames. City administrator Diers has talked to the manager at HyVee and they are interested in working with this firm if the city is agreeable to renting a portion of the lot. In order to be able to do this, a special use permit is required from the board of adjustment and the city, as the owner of the property, would have to make that request. Some concerns over the setbacks and this area being so close to a bank, two churches, the library and city hall. It isn't known what kind of storage containers would be used to hold the product during the off hours of sale and there was concern raised over different types of containers that might be used. Council was divided over allowing this use and staff will have further discussion with the company to get more information.

Discussion held again on the National Service Line insurance program. This program would allow citizens to sign up for coverage of their water/sewer service lines in the event of leaks, blockages, etc. The requirement that city letterhead be used for the information letter, a signed letter from the mayor and use of city envelopes were of some concern to the council. We asked if we could just include a separate letter from the city and they agreed but they insisted that a city envelope be used. It was asked if this company would provide this coverage to citizens without the city signing a contract and it was stated that we couldn't get a final answer to that question. While the council liked the idea of our citizens getting access to this kind of coverage, they weren't comfortable with the process. The city's insurance agent had informed council that this type of coverage is available through other insurance providers, like Pekin. This item will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

A fire occurred at a resident located at 611 Pfeiffer and the house has since been demolished. The water and sewer, however, still need to be capped per city code. City attorney Slotter would like to notify the homeowner's insurance company to file our interest in the reserve amount that is available to cover capping the utilities if the homeowner does not. We have been told by the owner that they are planning to cap them off as soon as the weather is decent. We have been advised by counsel to still file notice with the insurance company just to protect our rights to that money. This will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

Discussion on the list of council goals that were identified at our last goal setting session in November 2016. At that time, there were 6 major goals identified by council as being a priority. Some of those are well on the way to being completed so staff is asking council if they want to add some items to that list. This is a list that will be kept in front of the council, especially now during the budget process. After looking at the secondary list from the original goal setting session, the following items were identified by council to be on the list of priorities: study and make a decision on city hall renovation/relocation/use of building, wayfinding sign program, Charley Western bridge demo/replacement, fiber to the home initiative, develop plan to address water quality/storm water/water shed management issues, determine a way forward with our chronic nuisance program, acquisition of land and development of a certified industrial site. Council would like to visit this list every two months to monitor the progress of achieving them.

Mayor Andrews has another meeting scheduled for January 25 that would prohibit him from attending the budget meeting that day and he asked if council would consider changing their meeting time that day to 5:30. Council was agreeable to that.

City administrator Diers stated that the valuations were up slightly. He had also distributed a current list of one day borrowing items and a proposed list for FY19 for council to review.

Park and Rec budget was reviewed. Not many changes in revenues. Salaries are budgeted for a 2.5% increase which is what the tentative union contract includes. We currently have a part time park superintendent position and director Steve Lindaman is suggesting making that a full time position to help with the transition when he retires in the spring of 2019. Big events this past summer, such as RAGBRAI, Project AWARE and major storms, caused quite a bit of overtime. He is also looking to purchase a used fairway mower for \$25,000. The current tractor is also quite old and it is getting more difficult to get parts for it. He is proposing buying a different one and running the current one until it "falls apart". Some of the items included in the construction line item include Victory Park landscaping and concrete(44,696), way finding signage(10000) and tuckpointing on Wildwood bridge #1(7,500). The Riverfront Project fund has a negative \$10,000 in anticipation of the last two payments pledged from the county toward that project. The park and rec capital improvement fund remains pretty constant in revenues and expenses. Some projects planned for this in FY19 include seed funds for a skate park (10000), lighting on Riverside/Illinois in Victory Park (10000), Wildwood ballfield fencing (5000) and Wildwood cart bridge evaluation (5000).

Library budget reviewed. Library board member Mike Brummond was present to answer questions since director Kim Jones was unable to attend due to another library meeting scheduled. The HVAC system in the library has big issues so they have started the process to overhaul it with most of that work being done in FY18. They are also hoping to do some carpet replacement and deep cleaning of the library. The contract with the Rockford library is being looked at, so some changes may be coming on that agreement. Library trusts remain pretty much the same.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, mayor

Trudy O'Donnell, city clerk