

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 11, 2018

Charles City city council met in a budget session on January 11, 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, Mike Hammond and Dan Mallaro. Also present was city administrator Steve Diers.

City administrator Diers distributed a handout from the American Civil Liberties Union regarding nuisance ordinances. He also handed out an updated list of the council goals as identified at the last meeting. He reported that at the joint entity meeting this morning, discussion held on a combined effort on upcoming bond referendums for the school, county and possible the city for various building projects so it's not a competition to get a vote passed first. It is planned to hold joint meetings scheduled for the three entities to discuss the projects and get info to be shared with the public. That way, an informed decision can be made by the voters after they see the whole picture.

Police department budget was reviewed. The AMR contract is up for renewal this July, so we estimated a 5% increase for those revenues. We will be filling Vetter's position which was partially funded by Section 8 reimbursement and those figures will be re-negotiated with the housing department. Police salaries have a 1% increase figured for FY19 per the tentative union contract plus an added step for officers employed over 5 years. Each step reached garners a 3.5% increase in salary. Overtime expenses are expected to decline as we reach a full staff. Training expenses will also decrease once all of the new officers go through the academy. Capital purchases include a new squad for FY18 and FY19 to be funded by a one day borrowing. It was asked if there would ever be a year that we skip purchasing a new squad and it was replied that is an objective. The squad cars that are replaced are being handed down to code enforcement department currently as their vehicles are in bad need of replacement. Purchase of a new K-9 is budgeted for FY19 and will be paid for mostly by donations and grants. A grant from RAGBRAI of \$3250 has already been received for this purpose. Money has been budgeted for back door replacement in FY19 for \$1600. For protective measures line item, budgeted an extra \$6000 to cover replacement of a couple of tornado sirens that are having issues.

Fire department budget was reviewed. Overtime has increased recently due to medical leave. Capital equipment purchase of \$15000 to \$16000 has been budgeted to cover gear for new volunteers.

Code enforcement budget was reviewed. The tablets bought are not used as much, so smart phones have been added to the plan and should be utilized easier. Replacement of Jason's computer is also included for FY19.

Animal control budget includes new cages for \$500 and a salary increase of \$.45/hour for FY19.

Discussion held on the possibility of charging people's insurance company for fire calls to their premises. Pros and cons of doing this were discussed including the possibility that people may hesitate to call the fire department if they think they will be getting charged and also public perception. Fire chief Whipple estimated that 20% of the surrounding communities charge for fire calls. Staff will research this item and get more information to see if it would be feasible.

Dispatch fund budget discussed. The increase in tort liability was for the increased coverage on the tower to \$500,000. Salaries are set for 2.5% increase and health insurance will be increased 15% for FY19. This budget will be presented to the communications board on February 1 for their approval.

K-9 Fund anticipating \$4000 donations this year and \$2000 for FY19 with an expense of \$6000 for FY19.

Police purchase reserve will be funded with one day borrowing of \$20,000 in FY18 and 19 for squad purchases.

Asset forfeiture fund receives money from sale of items seized that are used in committing a crime and the money must be used to fund the fight on crime, not items such as overtime wages or furniture. Staff is looking at using these funds to go toward the purchase of a K-9 unit.

Fire Extinguisher fund is used to cover household expenses at the fire station for the firefighters on duty. These monies are received from the servicing fees and sale of fire extinguishers. This amount remains the same for FY18 and FY19.

Communications Equipment fund is used for emergency repair to the tower and is funded by a county payment of \$14000 each year.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, city clerk