

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
JANUARY 22, 2018

Charles City city council met in a budget/planning session January 22, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council people 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.

Mayor Andrews commented that he had received an email about Parkside Development winning an award for engineering.

Discussion on installation of a mid-block crosswalk in front of the theater. City engineer John Fallis had found more information on the rapid flashing beacon that had been discussed earlier. We aren't able to use this type of equipment now due to the interim approval for it's use has been rescinded. Council member Starr asked if there was anything else we could use at this location. Council member Freeseaman stated that the theater has been there a very long time and we used to have 3,000+ more residents, what has changed? Question on if we could utilize a roll out stop sign like schools use. Reply was that can only be used in school zones. Comment on the crosswalks at the Catholic and Baptist churches, why are they allowed? Response was that those two crosswalks are actually located at the intersection of Chapel Lane and Clark Street, so they are not mid-block cross walks. Staff will try to find other options for this area and if they are successful, this can be discussed by council further. If not, then there is nothing we can do.

The high quality jobs application that was approved last fall had an error in the application. The correct amount was approved but the amount was incorrect in the agreement itself. So this will not require council to reapprove it, just need to get the document corrected and sign it.

The new solid waste ordinance was updated to cover the new tote system being implemented in April. Bags will still be allowed but only if the tote is full. The requirement to have a 4 foot space in between totes was included as well as a time limit for setting out the totes prior to pickup and for leaving them curbside after pickup.

City engineer John Fallis reviewed the proposed street reconstruction project at Riverside and Illinois. To do this project, a portion of right of way would need to be secured from Joe and Lori Nettleton and this is in process of being done. This project will re-align a portion of the intersection at Riverside and Illinois. It is very low there and floods very easily. There will be parking added in this area which will enhance the use of Victory Park.

Miscellaneous general fund department budgets reviewed. Engineering budget doesn't have much change, a 2.5% increase in salary is included for FY19. The Nitro from the housing department is being purchased to be used the engineer, his current vehicle is on it's last legs. The building at 401 N. Main that houses Community Revitalization/Chamber/Area Development has \$20,000 budgeted for FY18 for new windows/doors but will probably do this work in FY19 to utilize more of the one day borrowing capacity. Signage for this building has also been discussed. Mayor and council department budget reviewed. New salaries for council and mayor went into effect January 1. Council now makes \$40/regular and special meeting (not planning sessions) and mayor annual salary increased to \$4800. The study for city hall was included in FY18 and \$22,500 was included in FY19 for additional study and possible comprehensive plan conclusion.

Employee benefit fund budget reviewed. The current cash balance reflects about three months of operating expenses, which is a typical cash reserve to maintain. An increase of 15% has been budgeted for health insurance premiums for FY19 to insure a healthy balance in the health plan account.

The emergency levy of \$.27/thousand has been included for both FY18 and FY19. This amount gets transferred to the General fund each year.

The TIF funds budgets were reviewed. Riverside has several tax rebates being paid. There are transfers out to General for payments on Façade, Cultural/Entertainment and annual support to ADC and Main Street. Mark Wicks suggested increasing Façade budget to \$35,000/year and decreasing cultural/entertainment annual budget to \$25,000. There just seems to be more of a demand for Façade items at this time. SW TIF is the joint city/county tif district and has an administrative board that oversees it's operation. This is a perpetual TIF which means it has no sunset. This fund had a rather large cash balance so we have been trying to spend that down a bit these past couple years. The payments to Valero end in FY19. Some transfers haven't been done the past couple years so they will be caught up in FY18. This is the last year for the support agreement with ADC so we will need to be working on renewing that in the next few months. South Grand TIF is also a perpetual TIF. A new area was added last year and that new area will have a 20 year life that starts once the first debt is certified there. Not much activity here yet until Molstead Motors new expansion comes on the tax rolls. East Park expires in 2019. The activity here consists of tax rebate payments made to MTE and Pro Cattle. Park Avenue is our housing TIF and it's 15 year life expires in 2020. We should be covered with the added valuation there for our last amount certified since those new homes are valued higher than what was originally planned.

City administrator Diers reported that quotes had been received for a pool heater and they came back at \$14,500 to \$17,000. This will be on the February 5 regular agenda for council consideration. Steve has talked to Iowa Homeland Security about our planned eco basin and was told that we wouldn't be able to qualify for any money from them since we are bidding this out this spring. National Service Line has indicated that single coverage in the city would be higher since they won't be partnering with the city.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk