

CITY OF CHARLES CITY  
COUNCIL/STAFF BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES  
January 22, 2026

Charles City City Council met in a budget work session on January 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., in the Zastrow Room of the Public Library. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Phillip Knighten, Patrick Lumley, Jeff Otto, and Phoebe Pittman. Also present was City Administrator Tyler Trout, Foster Grandparent Program Director Jennifer Lantz, Water Superintendent Cory Spieker, and Waste Water Superintendent Dan Rimrod.

Mayor Andrews opened the work session by welcoming those in attendance.

The Fiscal Year 2027 Foster Grandparent budget was reviewed with Director Jennifer Lantz. The Advisory Fund, which houses fundraiser proceeds and donations, continues to support volunteers who do not meet federal grant requirements. While Lantz persists in seeking additional grant opportunities, the Operating Fund budget was also evaluated. As FY2026 marks the end of the current three-year cycle, Lantz will focus on the renewal process while adjusting the FY2026 budget to ensure all remaining funds are fully utilized. Additionally, recruitment is underway for a Field Coordinator to oversee the screening and support of program volunteers.

Water Superintendent Cory Spieker presented the Water Department budget, noting that Union Contract negotiations are underway and should be finalized soon. Funding has been included for an additional operator in addition to the current vacancy being filled; both positions are necessary to manage the heavy workload associated with the facility's Grade 4 classification and the requirements of the lime softening treatment process. Regarding infrastructure, the Clear Well project is complete and closed out; a final transfer from the Water Department will be re-estimated in FY26 to clear the fund. A new water looping project (2nd/3rd Ave. to Ellis Dr.) has been budgeted to address local pressure issues. Upcoming maintenance priorities include plant painting, pump maintenance, VFD upgrades, annual tank inspections, and potential lead service line replacements. Notable FY26 re-estimated expenses include VFD and PLC upgrades, as well as insurance-covered repairs for Well #7.

Wastewater Superintendent Dan Rimrod presented the department budget, noting that union contract negotiations are currently underway. A significant portion of the discussion focused on the wastewater processing agreement with Maple Heights; as the contract has not been updated in years, implementing a new agreement is a priority. The upcoming budgeted utility rate study will provide the necessary data to facilitate this. Regarding maintenance, repairs and parts for the dimminutor were categorized under the 2024 Flood Fund, as the failure was directly attributed to high water levels. FY26 expenses have been re-estimated to account for unforeseen repairs to the #3 blower and the #3 RAS pump, as well as the Maple Heights lift station air release vent. For FY27, the budget includes a slight increase in contracted services to cover the utility rate study and a new copier lease. Additionally, the Hart St. pipe replacement and the 11th St. pipe repair are planned for the coming year, alongside the replacement of the plant utility cart, the Digester #2 diffusor replacement, a new generator at the Old Highway Rd. lift station, and possibly a wet well hoist for the dimminutor.

City Administrator Trout provided a brief update on the ongoing budget process. He also reported on a recent meeting with Charles City Schools Superintendent Brian Burnight regarding future planning and explored opportunities for the city and school district to work together collaboratively.

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brittney Lentz, City Clerk