

Planning Session  
January 28, 2019

The council met for a planning session on January 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Andrews presided and the following members were present: Keith Starr, DeLaine Freeseaman, Dan Mallaro, Mike Hammond, and Jerry Joerger.

The mayor called the meeting to order. Due to the pending retirement of long time Park and Recreation Director, Steve Lindaman, the mayor asked if a discussion could be put on a planning session agenda for discussing the direction that the council would like to take with that position.

An earlier discussion had been held regarding the tree trimming that is needed to be done in town. Street Superintendent, Dirk Uetz has been working to compile an inventory of trees that need to be trimmed. Our City code currently state that it is the duty of the abutting property owner to keep trees trimmed to 15' feet above the surface on the street side and 8' above the sidewalks. The code also states that anyone who trims trees in the city right of way be licensed and bonded. This means that the property owner would not be able to trim the trees themselves. Dirk's inventory showed 2,800 trees in the right of way that needed to be trimmed. Dirk was asked to get a general quote to have the trees trimmed on the street side. The quote came back at \$200,000 to do the work. Diers would recommend this to be a two or three year project and see if the street department could offer some assistance in hauling away limbs. Diers has budgeted for year one in FY20 Road Use Tax budget. Questions arose over whether it would be beneficial to have both sides of the trees trimmed, whether there would be a possible assessment procedure available to recoup the expense from the property owners, if it would be more beneficial to grind the trimmings at the site instead of hauling them away to be chipped later, and whether an increase in the Waste Fund charge could be added to cover costs. Also there was discussion about the code itself and whether the property owners should be able to trim their own trees. Some concern was expressed as to this project being the best use of Road Use Tax monies. While all were in consensus that the trees need to be trimmed, council members felt it was best to think over what had been discussed and then bring it back to a future planning session.

The school has access to grant funding for a position if it is shared with another public entity. The entity can be another school, city, or county. Initial discussion with the school is to share a Human Resource position. This person would work about 40% for the city which would relate to 2 days a week. Duties are not fully defined at this time but Diers sees this person working on various HR related policies, scanning, and various tasks. This position would not result in any other positions being reduced. Diers explained that while the school would receive 100% reimbursement for their part of the position the City would not. Funding would have to be budgeted in the amount of approximately \$25,000. Some council members expressed than a person working at this level would not be interested in doing scanning and that they thought someone could be hired at a lower rate to do this type of work. Another concern was how long this funding would be available. If the funding only lasted 2 or 3 years would we be obligated to

hire a full-time person? Diers stated that the funding was guaranteed for 5 years. Consensus of the council was that this was something they were not interested in pursuing at this time.

A meeting was held several weeks ago by AARP to discuss the AARP Age Friendly Communities program. Several AARP representatives were present at that meeting and they wanted to see if Charles City would like to apply to be one of AARP's Age Friendly Communities. Mark Wicks handed out a sheet that showed some of the items that can make a community age friendly. Mr. Peterson, the state representative, shared at this meeting that one of the biggest reasons to apply to become an age friendly community is that AARP will do a study of our town to see what the needs and wants of our citizens are. A list of other benefits of the program were provided to the council. The first step is the mayor will send a letter stating interest in applying for the program. Then an application will have to be filled out. Representatives of AARP have offered assistance in filling the application out. Council felt this would be a good program to apply for.

Monday night's meeting will include on the agenda an item for the Shaw Avenue monitoring and maintenance work provided by GHD. The City shares this expense with Zoetis 50/50. Our share will be \$13,800 which a little higher than last year due to it is time for EPA review this year. It will be Dier's recommendation to approve this contract.

In the City Administrator report administrator Diers said notices have been placed on the City website and the City Facebook page recommending citizens monitor their water temperatures and if water temperatures reach 40 degrees it is recommended to run a stream of water to prevent their pipes from freezing. He has also been working on budget figures for the general fund and hopes to have some numbers out to the council soon. With the cold weather moving in on Wednesday, he asked the council their thoughts on closing City Hall due to the frigid temperatures. It was council's consensus that if someone felt that it was not safe to come to work that day that they would be able to take a day of paid leave instead of coming to work.

Being that there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

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Virginia Titus, Deputy Clerk