

Planning Session
February 10, 2020

The council met for a planning session on February 10, 2020 immediately after the special council session held at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. The mayor presided and the following members were present: Keith Starr, DeLaine Freeseaman, Jerry Joerger, Phillip Knighten, and Phoebe Pittman.

Mayor called the meeting to order. There were no mayor's comments.

City Administrator Diers introduced our new Watershed Coordinator, Doug Johnson, to the council. Doug introduced himself and told about his conservation background. He passed out a sheet that explained the watershed project area and the project goals. Project partners are City of Charles City, Floyd SWCD, USDA-NRCS, Iowa Soybean Association, and Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance. Doug will use an outreach plan that will consist of field days, workshops, community updates, newsletters, project brochure, local media, and partner updates.

Our lease with T-Mobile is coming to an end and they are looking at a renewal of the lease. T-Mobile currently leases an area on our water tower to place their cell antenna. Due to equipment costs they are looking for a 5-year lease with renewal for 5 additional 5-year terms. Lease will start out at \$1,600.44 lease payment per month and at each 5-year renewal an amount equal to 15 percent will be added. Brad Slotter, city attorney has been working on this agreement. Diers said the 5-year agreement period is new approach. In the past it has been an annual increase. The City also has no ability in this contract to discontinue the agreement. This lease is not exclusive to them. There is room on the tower for more equipment. Lots of ideas were discussed. It was the consensus of the council to have Brad continue negotiating on the contract looking to see if a little longer term is possible.

The city has entered into an option to purchase 808 N. Main. Initially looking at using the property for Telecom. Since the City Tap has been purchased for the Telecom, we need to decide on the option for 808 N. Main which expires on 2/22/20. Diers recommendation was that he would still like the council to consider purchasing this property. Property will be needed if we decide to reconfigure main street. It can also be used for additional storage space. Option to purchase was set at \$170,000. Consensus was that item will be placed on the next agenda for the council to vote on.

A new levy sheet was passed out to the council on the proposed budget levy for FY21. It shows an increase in levy from \$15.90021 to \$16.02115. Key things in this increase are the transit fund, ambulance service, debt service, police & fire retirement, and property insurance. Diers reviewed the general fund with the council. Numbers are skewed due to Certified Site purchase. As budgeted now we will be dipping into the general fund balance by about \$30,000. Diers also placed additional monies into the capital equipment reserve funds. Outside agency requests have been added. Diers said he has made a small number of adjustments. He has cut back the police department salaries to reflect normal staffing. In the past few years we have been unable to remain fully staffed. Fire department budgeted for a roof and that has been removed from the budget. Overhead doors were left in the budget. Increased amount for tree removal to \$35,000 from \$30,000. There were no changes in the library budget as presented. In the park & rec budget he has left in the full-time park & recreation superintendent. Tyler put together information on what this person would be doing and the savings that could occur with having this position. Diers asked the council to review this proposal and let him know if they have any questions. A suggestion was to have a follow up after the first year to see how this

position is working and how much was saved. Diers did remove the rough mower from the budget proposal in the amount of \$30,000. \$50,000 has been included for clubhouse siding replacement. 401 N. Main has budgeted \$50,000 for completion of window/door/entryway construction project. Will be working on putting the budget together as a whole for the council's review.

Wednesday Diers and the Mayor will be attending a future planning session for the YMCA. Tuesday and Wednesday of next week Diers will be at a meeting in Des Moines with Mid America Economic Development Conference. He also will be attending the Iowa Rural Summit in April.

Being there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Virginia Titus, Deputy Clerk